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Libby Purves

Women who give up a career for marriage deserve their half of a pension, **p12**



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Dr Thomas Stuttaford

How blue eyes can help if you are hoping to reach your century, **page 14**

20P

THE TIMES

No. 65,197 WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22 1995

College heads quit Oxford and Cambridge club



Lord Jenkins: the most senior officer to sign

BY BEN PRESTON
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE heads of Oxford and Cambridge colleges announced yesterday their mass resignation from the London club that bears their name in protest at what they said was its *offensive* treatment of women.

All but one of the 31 Cambridge and three of the 42 Oxford college principals signed a statement publicly dissociating themselves from the United Oxford and Cambridge University Club, which was founded in 1817, over its refusal to move towards granting full membership to women. All the signatories who were members, honorary members or lady associate members either had already resigned or would now to do so, they said.

The protest by many of Britain's most eminent academics and public figures was led by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Chancellor of Oxford and former Social Democrat leader, Dr Peter North, Vice-Chancellor of Oxford, and Professor Sir David Williams, Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge. Other signatories indicating their "distaste for the club's discriminatory policies" include Sir Crispin Tickell, the former diplomat and Warden of Green College, Oxford, and Lord Dahrendorf, the social scientist and Warden of St Antony's, Oxford. The protest reflects a final loss of patience with the resistance to change shown by the old guard of London's clubland over the past two years. Women are forbidden full membership and use of the library and members' bar. David Butler, the political scientist, reignited the row between senior academics and the Pall Mall club last month by announcing his resignation in *The Times*.

Those who did not take up the opportunity to sign the statement include: Lord St John of Fawsley, Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge; Lord Windlesham, Principal of Brasenose College, Oxford; Professor John Barron, Master of St Peter's College, Oxford; and Catherine Hughes, Principal of Somerville College, Oxford. The Duke of Edinburgh, Chancellor of Cambridge, was kept informed but was not asked to sign.

Dr North said the universities could not ignore the affairs of a club that displayed their coats of arms and drew virtually all members from their graduates. He said the universities were likely to press the club to change its name: "It may seem inappropriate for a club to bear the names of two universities which have publicly dissociated themselves from it."

Professor Barron said that although he supported full membership rights for women, he believed it was better to fight from within the club. He said: "I can see why some people feel they have come to the end of the road, but I feel there is a little further to travel yet."

Lord St John of Fawsley said that he had not signed the statement because he believed it was more effective to seek change from within. He said: "The heads of colleges ought to move to take away the club's coat of arms and its name. That is the weapon to use." The peer, a member of White's, Pratt's and the Garrick, added: "I have never been a member of the Oxford and Cambridge. It is not the sort of club I want to be a member of."

Yesterday's statement expresses frustration at the stalemate since 49 per cent of the club's membership voted for change in a ballot in September 1993, just short of the margin required for reform by its constitution. It says: "The fact that no changes have been achieved has caused great disquiet within both universities and among their graduates here and overseas. The present situation perpetuates a discrimination widely regarded in both universities as offensive, within an institution which appears to many to be closely linked with the two universities."

List of dissenters, page 2
Diary, page 18

Declaration of war, says Paisley

Major urges Ulster to seize chance

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND NICHOLAS WATT

JOHN MAJOR yesterday delivered a passionate plea to the people of Northern Ireland against allowing the chance of a permanent peace in the Province to slip away.

As he prepared to fly to Belfast for today's launch of the London-Dublin proposals, the Prime Minister emphasised his readiness to consider alternative plans put forward by the Unionist parties. His mind was open about the "right mechanism" for achieving peace.

He told the Commons his objective was to ensure that the ceasefire was able to be "turned into a permanent peace for the well-being of all the people of Northern Ireland".

Mr Major added: "What I am determined is that we do seek to move forward, to try to ensure that the chance that is in our hands — we may not be able to hold it — should not slip away because we are not prepared to examine the matter, to talk about the matter, to consider it and reach the conclusions that you wish to see reached."

Mr Major's appeal came as the Ulster Unionists led by James Molyneaux published their own plans for the future of the province, strongly opposing the expected contents of the framework document while indicating that they would not boycott the talks process if their proposals were also considered.

But the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists reiterated their implacable opposition to participation if the framework document was on the table. After 80 minutes of talks with Mr Major, Dr Paisley described the plans as "a declaration of war on the Union and on the Unionist people". He said: "My worst fears are realised ... the news for the people of Northern Ireland is of the worst. There's only one line and one proposition in the document. That is the Dublin line and the Republican agenda."

Later Mr Major and John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, dined at Hillsborough Castle. This morning they will launch the 23-page joint document laying down the framework for a constitutional settlement. Then Mr Major will hold a press conference launching the proposals for the internal government of Northern Ireland, which include a legislative Assembly.

Ministers are braced for suspicion, distrust and outright opposition, particularly from the Protestant community. One Cabinet minister said that the Government was "walking a high wire". The expectation is that it may be two to three months before the Government can say whether the parties are ready for round-table talks about the next phase of the process. But there is cautious optimism that the Ulster Unionists will become involved.

The "triple lock" safeguards built into the process, the reported readiness of the Irish Government not to press its territorial claim and the fact that there has already been six months of peace are felt by ministers to give the present peace effort a chance.

The Unionist party document said that the framework plans could lead to "another 10 years of uncertainty and inevitable violence". They could become "a major part of the problem instead of a basis for solution".

Downing Street renewed its insistence that the framework document was not a blueprint for a political solution, and said that other proposals could still be taken into account. "The proposals that we will publish are not going to be carved in tablets of stone," an official said. "They are to be used as the basis for discussion and negotiation. We do not put them forward to the exclusion of all other ideas."

After ministers had briefed Tory MPs, Andrew Hunter, chairman of the Tory backbench Northern Ireland committee, tried to dispel Unionist fears, saying: "I note, I understand, I respect their sensitivities. I believe that when the dust settles they will find this framework document is not as bad as they think it's going to be, and that document and their own ideas do form the basis for a way forward to discuss."

John Hume, the SDLP leader, said: "What is being produced tomorrow is a discussion document. A discussion document is for discussion."

Mr Bruton tried to allay Unionist fears that the document amounts to a nationalist agenda when he told his MPs that it would give the people of Northern Ireland a chance to shape their own future. Neither tradition need fear its contents. It will undoubtedly challenge the two traditions on this island. But it will do so in an even-handed way."

Mr Bruton said that the document was not being imposed as a blueprint. "Its purpose is to facilitate, not preempt dialogue. At the end of the day, the people of this island, north and south, will have the final say."

Representatives of loyalist paramilitaries and Sinn Fein said they would study the document before responding.

INSIDE

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Bridge and chess

The bridge and chess columns have moved to the second section. Read Robert Sheehan and Raymond Keene today on page 43.

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KEN MACPHERSON



Flt Lt Jo Salter pictured at Lossiemouth yesterday in front of a Tornado bomber

No fear of flying for RAF's first woman bomber pilot

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE RAF's first woman Tornado bomber pilot introduced herself to the media yesterday by saying that she never feels fear.

Flight Lieutenant Jo Salter, 26, a member of the 617 "Dambusters" Squadron at Lossiemouth, Scotland, has cost the RAF £3 million to train as a fast jet pilot, the same as her male counterparts.

Yesterday, Flt Lt Salter, who comes from Bournemouth, rejected suggestions that frontline Servicewomen lacked aggression. "I never feel fear," she said. "The Air Force is an armed force and you have to expect to go into combat."

She said that even if she married and had children, she would not give up her career.

"I would like to have children one day and in the Air Force you can have maternity leave, but I would hate to give up my career," she said, as the RAF formally presented its first female bomber pilot.

Fl Lt Salter underwent rigorous training to bring her up to standard and has a permanent commission which will last to the age of 38. After that, she hopes to become a weapons instructor.

She said she had always loved flying, but taking control of a high-technology war machine was not even a flight of fancy as a schoolgirl because the opportunity never existed. It was only in 1991 that Ministers decided to allow women to become combat pilots. Now 28 are undergoing training.

Solo pioneer, page 7

Unilever counts £57m cost of a power play

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

UNILEVER, the Anglo-Dutch soap giant, admitted yesterday that its Persil Power washing powder had rotted more than just a few shirts. The product also made a £57 million hole in the group's finances last summer, after the company was forced to withdraw and reformulate it.

Last June Unilever had to destroy tons of the original-formula powder, which it now acknowledges damaged clothes. The group included the cost of its withdrawal in the £2.3 billion profit figures for 1994 published yesterday: the firm had spent more than £200 million developing the powder.

Other expenses included an estimated £500,000 on advertising its telephone "Care Line", which cost several hundred thousand pounds to run. The helpline was set up to reassure customers and to offer compensation for any clothes they could prove had been damaged by the powder.



It was all meant to be so different. Persil Power was launched last spring throughout Europe on a wave of hype, with Unilever claiming it contained a unique manganese-based accelerator which was more effective in removing even "stubborn" stains.

Within weeks, Procter & Gamble, its arch rival and manufacturer of Ariel, declared that Persil Power caused fabric damage. Unilever denied the claims and launched writs for defamation. But P & G responded with a campaign of unprecedented ferocity against the product, commissioning reports from consumer associations and placing advertisements in national newspapers. At times the "soap wars" degenerated into farce, with P & G brandishing frayed and washed-out boxer shorts at press conferences.

The plan proved successful. By the summer Unilever, in an attempt to defend its 85-year-old brand name, changed the formula of Persil Power and reduced the manganese content by 80 per cent.

It now admits it made a serious mistake in launching a product with a defect it had not detected. It has cost the company, and its shareholders, millions and damaged its image. Unilever's share of the European detergent market is no better than a year ago, and it still trails P & G.

Tempus, page 28

Manager of Arsenal sacked over cash report

BY PETER BALL

ARSENAL yesterday dismissed their manager, George Graham two days before a Premier League commission investigating allegations of irregular payments reports.

Graham had been accused of receiving £285,000 from Rune Hauge, the Norwegian agent involved in the transfer of John Jensen, the Danish international. His solicitors said that he dismissed the allegations as "nonsense" and demanded a full FA inquiry.

Arsenal's response, ending Graham's eight years as manager, was almost inevitable. The statement said: "The board have concluded that Mr Graham did not act in the best interests of the club. The board have therefore terminated Mr Graham's contract."

Graham has been the most successful Arsenal manager since the war, winning two championships, the FA Cup, the League Cup and the European Cup Winners' Cup.

☐ Eric Cantona, the Manchester United footballer, was charged yesterday by police with common assault on a spectator at Crystal Palace during a match last month.

Graham sacked, page 48

NatWest lifts its profits to £1.59bn

National Westminster Bank yesterday announced a 61 per cent increase in 1994 pre-tax profits, to £1.59 billion after bad debts halved to £616 million. They exceeded City expectations, as did the rise in annual dividend, up 17 per cent to 21.6p.

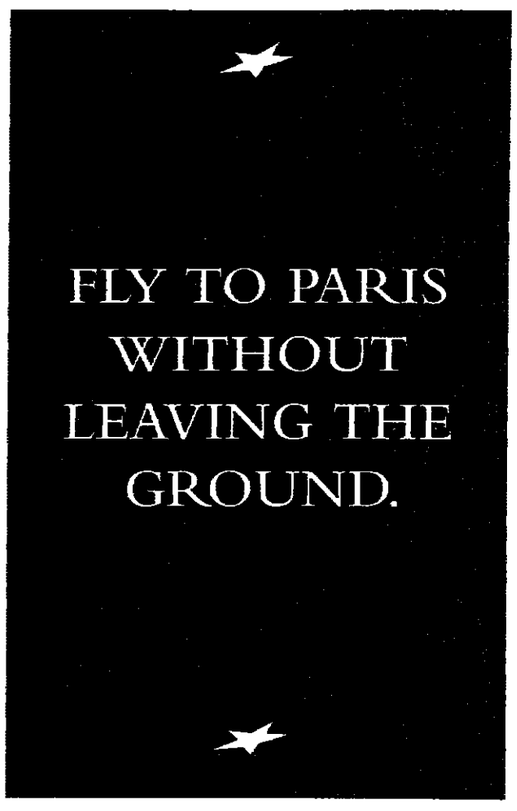
Derek Wanless, the chief executive, said that the bank is looking for acquisitions to fill in perceived weaknesses in its investment banking and Coutts private banking operations ..... Pages 23, 27

Skier survived on Mars and snow

Andrew Wilson, 44, from Glasgow, a cross-country skier feared frozen to death after three nights lost in a blizzard in the Grampians, amazed rescuers when he walked to safety. He survived on one Mars bar and snow and sheltered in his bivouac bag in a snow hole as temperatures fell to minus 35C ..... Page 3

Euro-tank rolls in

Britain wants to collaborate with France and Germany in designing and building a new generation of armoured vehicles for Europe's armies. The first link could centre on a £3.5bn programme for 7,000 personnel carriers and reconnaissance vehicles ..... Page 25



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CENTRE OF LONDON TO THE CENTRE OF PARIS. DIRECT.

Westminster chortles over wizard ways to curb unruly Cabinet

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

At education Questions, the air was black with the soot of *flying pots* thrown from glass houses by *people so* blinded by the beams in their own eyes that they were casting out kettles in place of motes. To put it another way, MPs were discussing the need for physical fitness, good English and discipline. *In others.*

Mercifully, a thin minister *had chosen to* answer the question about physical exercise. Mercilessly, Labour managers had selected a fat spokesman to question her. In the circumstances, Education Secretary Gillian Shephard (C, *thin*) was kind to Peter Kilfoyle (Lab, fat) when he complained about the loss of sports fields.

"One hundred yards sprint!" chortled Tory tubbies at the protesting Kilfoyle. "I was once a PE teacher," he spluttered.

Cyril Townsend (C, *thin*) complained that we were "a nation contentedly unfit". The wheezes and rasps of MPs eager to dispute this, if they could only find breath, filled the Chamber. Chester's (*and television's, radio's,* publishing's and after-dinner's) Gyles Brandreth, reminding us that "English is the richest and most versatile of the living languages" (and he the most versatile and richest of its living practitioners) urged the nation to be more articulate.

Were it so, the nation might urge Mr Brandreth to be less voluble. "People," he went on, "are judged by whether they can express themselves clearly." Expressing herself very clearly indeed, Glenda Jackson (Lab, articulate) told Tories to stop pontificating and pay for better teaching. Eric Forth, a junior education *minister, boasted about his* department's anti-bullying pack for schools. If Mr Forth, a Scot of the brutal tendency and more easily envisaged behind the bicycle sheds than the dispatch box, does not have L-O-V-E tattooed on one set of knuckles and H-A-T-E on the other, it must be because he is *saving the space* for something ruder.

Still, Forth had his wits about him. He had cannily anticipated that a question about the need for "firm discipline" in schools would elicit sniggers from Labour's David Blunkett about Major's disciplinary problems with a class of only 22: his Cabinet. To rueful cheers from Tory backbenchers who are fed up with their own prefects' squabbles, Forth read out a five-point plan for dealing with troublemakers: detention; interruption of *lunch: privileges such as trips* cancelled; written work assigned; a useful task to be carried out. He hoped that anyone who had to impose discipline would find his list "helpful".

Got that, PM? Who knows: with Kenneth Clarke's *lunches curtailed, Aitken* barred from trips abroad, Heseltine assigned written work, Redwood consigned to a useful task (but what?) and Portillo in detention, *Cabinet* Government might become *possible again.*

All in all it was a good day for Mr Forth. Recommended to adopt US educational methods in Britain, he replied: "I yield to none in my affection for all things American, not least Mrs Forth."

Next came PM's Questions. *Ireland is bringing out* the best in John Major. When *the likeable* Sir James Kilfedder (UPUP, Down N) sounded more than ritually *upset* to have been (as he thought) excluded from consultations, Major avoided any temptation to bridle or snap and replied generously. Challenged on the framework document by Ken Maginnis (UUP, Fermanagh & S Tyrone), the PM put down *his notes* and, hoping to convince Maginnis, seemed for a moment to rise right above the habitual rancour. He spoke with real passion.

Sincerity in the Commons is so rare it's almost shocking.

'Government paying lip service to needs of middle-aged women'

Pension reform not good enough say divorced wives

BY ANNE ASHWORTH

A GOVERNMENT proposal to ensure fairer pension rights for divorced women has been greeted with criticism from peers, ex-wives' groups and lawyers. They say the proposed changes do not go far enough.

Under the current arrangements, couples who divorce lose the automatic right to share each other's pensions, even though the amounts invested in pensions may exceed the value of other household assets, including the family home.

During the Lords committee stage of the Pensions Bill on Monday, Lord Mackay of *Ardbrecknish, the Social Security* minister, announced that the Government was looking at ways to amend the Matrimonial Causes Act. He said *that the courts would have to* place "greater emphasis on the need for pension rights when considering financial provision on divorce".

But the move was seen as an attempt to divert attention *from more radical solutions.* Baroness Young had put forward an amendment to the Bill requiring pensions to be divided on divorce. Among those dissatisfied with the *Government's action are Sal*lie Quin, the spokeswoman for Fairshares, a group that campaigns for pensions justice for the divorced.

She said yesterday: "The Government is purely paying lip service to the problem of middle-aged wives who are deprived of a share in their husband's pension when they divorce. We are not happy and intend to keep on fighting but I am pleased to see that the Government has finally deigned to recognise the problem."

Mrs Quin, 50, is a typical case for better pensions treatment. Her husband retired early in 1991 after their judicial separation. During their mar*riage, she had been employed* in a series of part-time jobs which offered no pension. As she has no right to a share of her husband's pension, she and her 17-year-old daughter live on income support.

Her organisation is part of an increasingly vociferous lobby. There is considerable unease over middle-aged women facing an impoverished old age after a late divorce.

*The plight of the middle*aged divorced wife will be kept in the spotlight by the case of Douglas and Anne Brooks, which goes before the Lords in *early April. The couple split* six years ago after 12 years of marriage.

Although the Court of Appeal ruled last year that Mrs Brooks was entitled to a share of her husband's estimated £500,000 pension, Mr Brooks is contesting that decision. Mrs Brooks, 56, feels that she earned a portion of the pension for running the home.

The occupational pensions industry and the insurance companies are little moved by the debate. However, the National Association of Pension *Funds, which represents* company pension schemes, said that if pensions were to be split, administrative costs to the pension scheme would have to be met by the couple rather than the scheme.

Libby Purves, page 16
Leading article, page 19



Anne Brooks: wants share of £500,000 pension

Governors urged by heads to go into the red

BY BEN PRESTON
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

HEAD teachers raised the stakes in the revolt over education spending yesterday and urged schools to go into the red *rather than axe teachers'* jobs.

The National Association of Head Teachers advised governors to unite and delay any decisions about reducing staffing or increasing class sizes to make their budgets balance in the new financial year. Instead, schools should protect the quality of education and increase the pressure on min*isters to find extra cash.*

The advice could led to local education authorities taking control of schools where governors try to set illegal deficit budgets. Alternatively, the union says that authorities might respond by simply reminding governors that any deficit at the end of the year would be deducted from the following year's budget.

The strategy is designed to catch the Government off balance by delaying confrontation over threatened teacher redundancies until nearer to the next general election. It rejects more dramatic, immediate *alternatives such as the* introduction of a four-day week for schools or mass resignations by governors.

David Hart, the union's general secretary, said that ministers would be more vulnerable to campaigns by parents and governors early next year when schools which planned to go into the red started to run out of money.

He said the Government's spending squeeze and its refusal to fund the 2.7 per cent increase in teachers' pay meant the requirement that governors set a balanced budget was "totally incompatible" *with their statutory* responsiblity to deliver the national curriculum. He acknowledged that the courts might be required to intervene.

Mr Hart said it was time for *parents and teachers to chall*enge the assumption that governors must not overspend when faced by unrealistic spending constraints established by an unlistening Government. He said the union's strategy was a gamble.

Walter Ulrich, officer for the National Association of Governors and Managers, said that it was pointless for head *teachers to ask governors to* plan deficit budgets that would risk intervention by local authorities. He said: "This would only make things *worse because authorities* would set harsher budgets by formula which were not so well tailored to individual schools."

NEWS IN BRIEF

480 to sue MoD over Gulf War syndrome

More than 480 alleged sufferers of Gulf War syndrome or "desert fever" have formally informed the Ministry of Defence that they intend to sue for compensation. In a Commons written reply yesterday, Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, said that the MoD had received "notification of 483 *potential claims* in respect of ill health as a result of service in the Gulf War".

The MoD denies the existence of the syndrome. "Our investigations to date have found no medical or scientific evidence of a Gulf War syndrome, or any medical condition peculiar to service *in the Gulf,"* Mr Soames said.

Rubbish removed

BBC Radio 3 admitted last night that it had cut the heckling from Monday's broadcast of *The Rose Lake,* by *Sir Michael Tippett, because it did not want to spoil the* composer's birthday. The shouts of "Rubbish!" and "Visions of Hell!" were removed after the recording at the Barbican, London, on Sunday night.

Derry detention charge

A Sinn Fein member of Derry City Council, held for questioning in an arrest operation in nationalist areas of Londonderry on Monday, is to appear in court in Belfast today. Mary Nelis is charged with unlawful imprisonment of a woman. *Two men face the same charge and an* additional charge of intimidation.

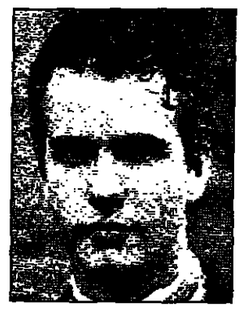
Harrods acts over writ

Harrods asked the High Court yesterday to set aside a writ *issued by Sir Alford Houstoun-Boswall, 47, principal of* The Harrodian School, who sent his bailiffs into the store to recover a £123,000 legal bill. Master Winegarten of the Chancery Division agreed to stay the writ until a hearing of all parties next Monday.

£15,000 RAF payout

An RAF medical assistant who claimed she was wrongfully sacked for being pregnant has won £15,000 damages from the Ministry of Defence. Victoria Edwards, of Nottingham, was dismissed even though the MoD had changed its policy on maternity leave to fall in line with European law.

Guppy wins legal aid



Two High Court judges yesterday ruled that Darius Guppy, left, serving five years for fraud, was entitled to legal aid to fight proceedings that could increase his sentence by three years. Magistrates in Redbridge, London, had refused Guppy, 30, access to public funds after he failed to pay £227,000 compensation, and gave notice of their intention to start enforcement proceedings.

Nuclear waste decision

The Government has opted for "dry stores" on land for spent nuclear fuel, John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, said yesterday. The waste has previously been disposed of at sea. The siting of the stores will be left for the operators of nuclear power stations to decide, Mr Gummer said in a Commons reply. Labour condemned the decision.

BT loses Dorset village

The Dorset village of Studland has ceased to exist, according to British Telecom. All 500 inhabitants with 211 residential and 39 business telephone lines have been omitted from this year's Bournemouth area telephone directory. British Telecom regretted the error but said printing a new directory was not feasible.

Rebels ponder reform after Lords victory



Baroness Young: led the Tory rebellion

BY ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

PEERS celebrated the news yesterday that their rebellion had forced the Government to find ways to ensure that men shared their pensions with their former wives when they divorced.

Tories who joined opposition parties in the Lords on Monday night to force the Government into promising concessions said that they would be going through the *Pensions Bill carefully to look* for any more inequalities. Baroness Young, the former Leader of the Lords who led the Tory rebellion, said: "Divorce courts in England and Wales are not obliged to take a husband's pension rights into account when making divorce settlements. This means courts can shortchange women who have supported their husbands and *sacrificed their own careers to* bring up children. They are left reliant on benefits when they retire while the man has a fat pension."

Peers do not want the changes to be retrospective because such an arrangement caused so many problems for the Child Support Agency, but they cannot agree on how the law should be amended. Some want a former wife to receive financial or property benefits in lieu of the pension, as occurs in Scotland. Others want the pension split at the time of divorce, a move that *neither the Government nor* pensions companies want.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter, a former Conservative pensions minister, said: "There is the feeling in the Lords that we must not funk the issue. The present law is unfair and however difficult it is to change it must be addressed." He added, however, that pro*visions should not be pushed* too far. "I am not sure that a pension not yet put into payment should be split because it would just be so hard to do."

Pressure groups for di*vorced women said the courts* must have the power to split the pension immediately. Mike Brown, of the National Association of Pension Funds, said: "It is certainly feasible to split a pension."

☐ OXFORD: **Roy Jenkins**, Chancellor, *University of Oxford*; **Peter North**, Vice-Chancellor, Principal of Jesus College; **John Albery**, Master of University College; **Eric Anderson**, Rector of Lincoln College; **A.B. Atkinson**, Warden of Nuffield College; **Clark Brundin**, President of Templeton College.

John Burgh, President of Trinity College; **Marilyn Butler**, Rector of Exeter College; **Averil Cameron**, Warden of Keble College; **Bryan Cartledge**, Principal of Linacre College; **Ralf Dahrendorf**, Warden of St Antony's College; **Ruth Deech**, Principal of St Anne's College; **John Drury**, Dean of Christ Church; **Paul Fiddes**, Principal of Regent's Park College; **John Flemming**, Warden of Wadham College; **Justin Gosling**, Principal of St Edmund Hall; **William Hayes**, President of St John's College; **Colin Lucas**, Master of Balliol College; **Elizabeth Llewellyn-Smith**, Principal of St Hilda's College; **Harvey McGregor**, Warden of New College; **Geoffrey Marshall**, Provost of The Queen's College.

Joseph Munitiz, Master of Campion Hall; **Patrick Neill**, Warden of All Souls College; **Ernest Nicholson**, Provost of Oriel College; **Raymond Plant**, Master of St Catherine's College; **Jessica Rawson**, Warden of Merton College; **Richard C. Repp**, Master of St Cross College; **George Richardson** (Warden of Keble College 1989-94); **John Roberts** (Warden of Merton College (1984-94); **Richard G. Smethurst**, Provost of Worcester College; **Anthony Smith**, President of Magdalen College; **David Smith**, President of Wolfson College; **Robert Stevens**, Master of Pembroke College; **Duncan Stewart**, Principal of Lady Margaret Hall.

Keith Thomas, President of Corpus Christi College; **Geoffrey Thomas**, President of Kellogg College; **Crispin Tickell**, Warden of Green College; **Dennis Trevelyan**, Principal of Mansfield College; **Ralph Waller**, Principal of Manchester College; **Henry Wansbrough**, Master of St Benet's Hall; **Thomas Weinandy**, Warden of Greyfriars; **Derek Wood**, Principal of St Hugh's College; **Christopher Zeeman**, Principal of Hertford College.

☐ CAMBRIDGE: **David Williams**, Vice-Chancellor, *University* of Cambridge; **Sam Edwards**, Pro-Vice-Chancellor; **Michael Atiyah**, *Master of Trinity College*; **Patrick Bateson**, Provost of King's College; **Gillian Beer**, President of Clare Hall; **Alec Broers**, Master of Churchill College; **Juliet Campbell**, Mistress of Girton College; **Alan Cuthbert**, Master of Fitzwilliam College; **John Dingle**, President of Hughes Hall.

Terence English, Master of St Catharine's College; **Peter Goddard**, Master of St John's College; **Peter Gray**, Master of Gonville and Caius College; **John Gurdon**, *Master of Magdalene College*; **David Harrison**, Master of Selwyn College; **Bob Hepple**, Master of Clare College; **Gabriel Horn**, *Master of Sidney Sussex* College; **Gordon Johnson**, President of Wolfson College; **Hans Kornberg**, Master of Christ's College; **Richard Laws**, Master of St Edmund's College; **Jack Lewis**, *Warden of Robinson College*; **Geoffrey Lloyd**, Master of Darwin College; **John Lyons**, Master of *Trinity Hall*; **Peter Mathias**, Master of Downing College; **Onora O'Neill**, Principal of Newnham *College*; **Valerie Pearl**, President of New Hall; **Pauline Perry**, President of Lucy Cavendish College; **John Polkinghorne**, *President* of Queens' College; **Kate Pretty**, Principal of Homerton *College*; **Colin Renfrew**, *Master of* Jesus College; **John Meurig Thomas**, Master of Peterhouse; **Roger Tomkys**, *Master of Pem*broke College; **Anthony Wrigley**, Master of Corpus Christi College.

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Lost skier survives three nights of blizzards

Diet of snow and Mars bar fuelled will to live

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A CROSS-COUNTRY skier feared to have frozen to death after being lost for three nights in a blizzard in the Grampian mountains amazed rescuers yesterday when he walked to safety. Andrew Wilson, 44, from Glasgow, survived on one Mars bar and snow and sheltered in his bivouac bag in a snow hole as temperatures fell to minus 35C.

Rescuers who had been searching for him since he was separated from his skiing companion on Saturday said he had survived after spending longer on the mountains in such severe conditions than anyone before. He was found, confused and with severe hypothermia, on what rescuers from Braemar had decided would be the last day of searching.



The crew of a Royal Air Force Sea King helicopter from *HMS Gannet* saw him waving his arm one mile north of the Glenshee Ski Centre at 10.30am. Leading Aircrewman Gerry Flannery was winched to the ground and waded through waist-deep snow to reach him. "He was lying in quite deep snow that was drifting," he said.

Sergeant Graham Gibb of Grampian Police, who co-ordinated the three-day search, said: "He was shivering badly, was very weak and suffering from severe hypothermia but was still conscious. He must have had the will to live. I have never before found anybody alive on the fourth day of a rescue in these conditions, or any conditions for that matter," he said.

Mr Wilson told doctors at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee, where he was recovering last night, that after spending two nights in a snowhole at 3,000ft he decided to descend the mountain whenever the weather broke.

It was that decision which saved his life. On Monday night he was sheltering at 2,000ft on Cairn of Claise and the relentless blizzards that had been battering the mountains eased, allowing him to start down the mountain in the dark. "He would have had to go through waist-high snow during the night but he would have been helped by the moonlight," Mr Gibb said. "Once he came out of his snowhole he just kept going and was out all night retracing his steps and heading back towards his car at the Seanspittal Bridge. He was in a steep gully which automatically took him down toards the road." About 90 rescuers a day were involved in the search. Sergeant Gibb said that shortly after Mr Wilson was rescued the weather became so bad that if he had remained on the hill they would never have reached him. A decision had already been made in the morning to make yesterday the last day of searching. Dr Bill Morrison, the accident and emergency consultant at Ninewells Hospital, said yesterday: "He is remarkably well and thankful that he is here with us. I don't think anyone expected him to be alive. Whatever he is on, I'll have some of it."

Dr Morrison said Mr Wilson was suffering from hypothermia and when he was admitted was asking for Irn Bru, the most popular soft drink in Scotland. Dr Ray Newton, consultant physician, said Mr Wilson was showing no signs of frostbite. He has been given warm fluids and has been put on a saline drip to rehydrate him. Dr Newton said: "He is in very good spirits. He is sitting up eating toast." The skier told doctors that he had eaten only a Mars bar and some snow while lost in the mountains.

The two doctors said they were extremely surprised by Mr Wilson's physical condition and said he had survived by following the survival code to the letter. "He did all the correct things when the weather was very bad," Dr Newton said.



Andrew Wilson being carried into Ninewells Hospital, Dundee. He was suffering from hypothermia after surviving temperatures of minus 35C

'I knew in my heart that he was alive'

BY OUR SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

ANDREW WILSON'S wife said last night she had never given up hope that he would be found alive. Marion Wilson said: "I knew in my heart of hearts that he was alive.

"We're both Christians, and a lot of praying went on. And last night it just came to me that he was alive. He is in remarkable condition. He said he prayed a lot and he thought about me."

Mrs Wilson, 40, paid tribute to the mountain rescuers, whom she described as marvellous people. She said that her husband had been hill walking for 20 years, and this was the first time he had got into difficulties. She thought his survival was due to his ability to get himself off the mountain.

She expected him to go back to the hills again. "Knowing Andy, this won't stop him. I certainly won't stop him. I'm his wife, I'm not his keeper. Andy's life is the outdoors."

Mr Wilson's father-in-law, Alan Fielding, said: "We are delighted. We never gave up hope. We thought if anyone could survive it would be Andy. He's a very experienced outdoor person and he had the right equipment."

Red Dwarf rape claim 'a travesty of the truth'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN who claims she was raped at the instigation of Craig Charles, star of the television comedy *Red Dwarf*, by one of his friends while they were high on cocaine denied inventing "a travesty of the truth" yesterday.

Stephen Solley QC, for the 30-year-old comic, suggested she had set out to destroy his client because she was "gutted" that he was going to get married.

Mr Solley also suggested that a third man in her flat in Clapham, south London, whom she described as looking like Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, was "a figment". The 38-year-old former dancer told Southwark Crown Court: "I am not mad" and that she had told police the man "had a build like Michael Portillo".

The woman alleges she was subjected to lengthy sexual "torture" involving cocaine, a bottle, a pen and an orange. She said she was bound and blindfolded, then raped by John Peploe. She was subjected to a series of indecent assaults, including oral sex, by the three on July 8 last year.

Mr Charles, of Kennington, and Mr Peploe, 36, a company director of Camberwell, both south London, deny a joint charge of rape and four joint counts of indecent assault.

The case continues.

Constable caught 31 suspects with Pacino-style sting

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A FILM starring Al Pacino provided the inspiration for a police sting operation to net 31 of Sheffield's most wanted criminal suspects.

Tempted by a letter offering the chance of a free television and video recorder, people who usually run at the sight of a police uniform eagerly walked into the offices of a market research company called Mison Giewold on Sunday morning. It was only when the attentive staff came forward to arrest them that they discovered the name was an anagram for Detective Constable Simon Wiegold, who thought up the plan.

By the end of the day, police had captured 26 men and five women. They included a man on the run from prison for six months and ten wanted for questioning about burglary, theft and perverting the course of justice.

Yesterday South Yorkshire police disclosed how they deployed a technique already used in America. PC Wiegold took the idea of a sting to bring in the suspects from the film *Sea of Love*, in which Pacino plays a New York policeman who offers free baseball tickets to criminals who are arrested when they turn up for them. In Sheffield the suspects were invited by letter to take part in a draw at the bogus offices in return for answering a questionnaire on the quality of televisions and video recorders.

Yesterday Superintendent Stephen King, in charge of the operation, said the sting had meant the suspects were arrested without violence. "One or two said: 'That's a bloody good scam.' There were one or two congratulations." Others said they would never live it down.

PC Wiegold said police had discovered that one man was no longer wanted so they gave him some drinks. Impressed, he went home and persuaded his girlfriend to return with him. She was wanted and police arrested her.



Pacino, in *Sea of Love*, gave PC Wiegold his idea

Boy caught smoking is found hanged

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A FATHER found his 12-year-old son hanging by a pyjama cord in his bedroom after being told off for smoking.

Glen Dobson said yesterday that when he opened the door of his son Mark's room there was darkness except for the light from the television. "I saw him hanging from the top of the bunk beds he shares with my four-year-old son Dean. At first I thought it was some sort of sick prank. But then I saw his face."

Mr Dobson screamed to his wife to call an ambulance and tried mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. "I was desperately trying to blow the life back into Mark. But he had gone cold. In my heart I knew my beautiful son was dead."

Mr Dobson said his wife Vreni had sent the boy upstairs at their Wigan home for misbehaving. "He had been fighting with his sister Mandy and had been caught smoking." When Mr Dobson returned from work on Monday night he went upstairs to show Mark a satellite television magazine.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



The science of style

NEW FABRICS FROM FASHION'S GLEAM FACTORY IN THE

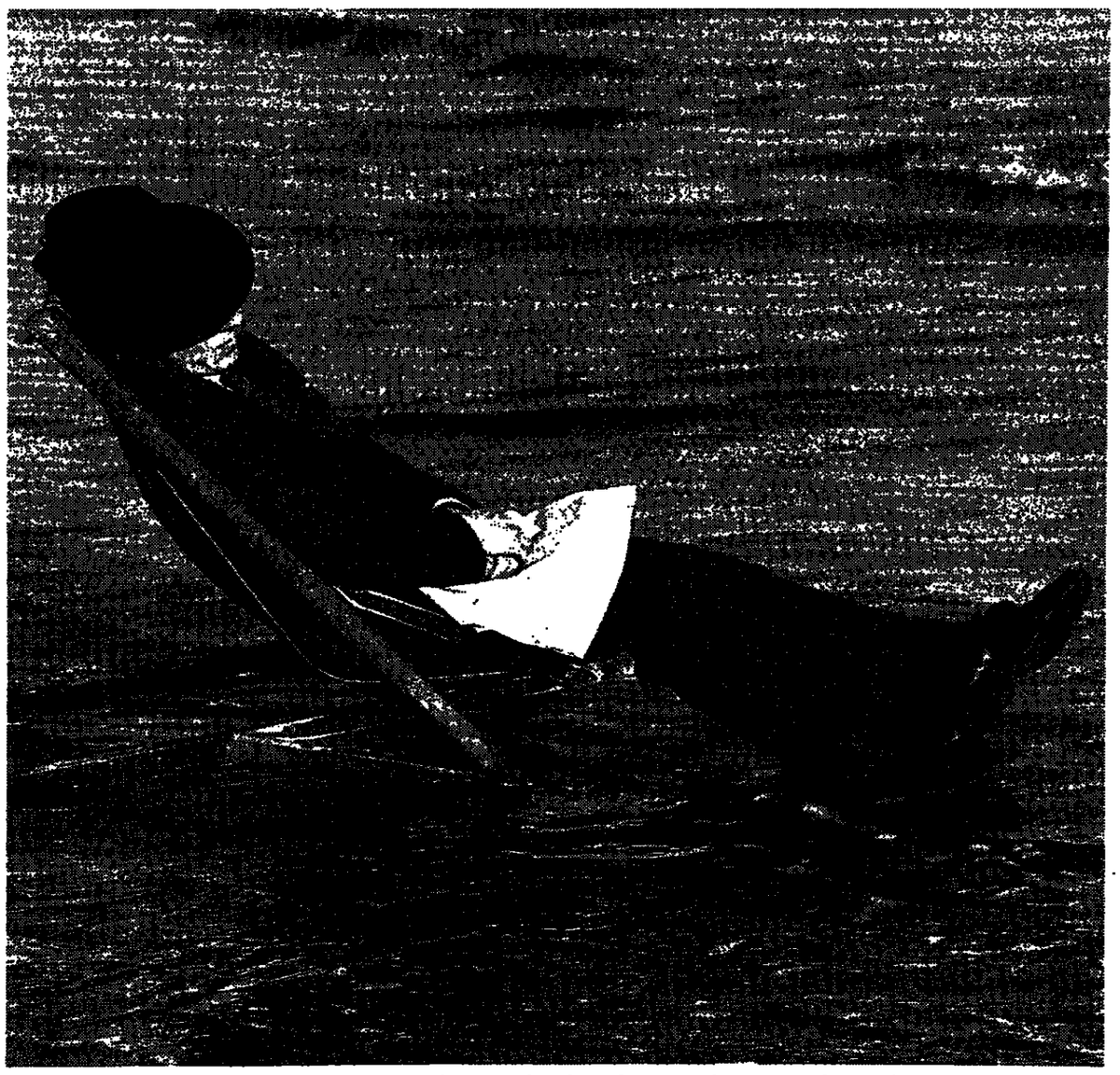
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THE SCIENCE OF SAFETY: THE JAGUAR THAT DRIVES ITSELF IN

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Clergy condemn moves to replace 'job for life' system

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CLERGY in the Church of England were yesterday in open rebellion against moves to abolish their freehold, the "job for life" that has traditionally given them homes and security of tenure. The clergy, meeting at Church House, Westminster, demanded that bishops, deans and provosts should also lose their freehold.

The meeting was a rare independent gathering of the convocation of clergy in the Canterbury province, which represents more than 7,000 clergymen in southern England and the Midlands. Together with the York province, which represents the rest of England, they normally meet with bishops and laity as part of the General Synod.

The meeting condemned moves to replace the ancient freehold with a leasehold system and to introduce modern management-style assessment systems.

The 90 clergy threw out motions that laid down conditions under which the freehold could be abolished, most insisting that the freehold should not go at all. A report of the heated debate will be put before the General Synod when it next meets in July. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, is thought to favour the abolition of the freehold and regular clergy assessment.

Canon Edwin Barnes, principal of St Stephen's House, Oxford, a high church theological college, said: "The only freeholds we need to remove are those for the dignitaries. Competition at the top is no bad thing. If bishops moved on every five years it would a very good thing. They could go to more important and creative jobs in the parishes."

He said the confidence of parish clergy needed to be increased, not diminished. "Unless we do that we are fiddling around and the Church is going to decay and disappear."

Unlike ministers in most other churches, two-thirds of the 11,000 stipendiary clergy in the Church of England have what is known as the "parson's freehold". They remain in full possession of their benefices until they die or reach retirement at 70, and are required by canon law to live in the rectory or vicarage.

The Rev Roger Arguile, team vicar of St Bertelin's, Stafford, and chairman of the Lichfield diocesan house of clergy, said the loss of morale among clergy was already causing many to seek secular employment. "I do not think the Church of England has anything like the machinery or any concept of what machinery would be appropriate for proper appraisal and career development."

The Ven John Burgess, Archdeacon of Bath, called for "very great caution". If the freehold was to be abolished it would have to include the freehold held by bishops, archdeacons and deans. "If you are going to go down this road, the house of bishops should give a lead." He said the concept of leaseholds and of management-style job appraisals would "discourage vocations to the ministry altogether".

Company director resigns after soccer riot

BY ANDREW PIERCE

A COMPANY director seen hurling timber into the crowd during last week's soccer riot in Dublin has been forced to resign by his fellow directors who were at the England-Ireland match during a goodwill trade mission.

The directors are to rename the Tewkesbury company, GMAC Forest Products, which was named after Graham McNulty. He is believed to be associated with a far-right group which yesterday claimed responsibility for orchestrating the trouble. The directors feared that the company's future would be jeopardised if Mr McNulty, the company founder, stayed on the payroll.

Mr McNulty and his colleagues, who have extensive business links with Ireland, had gone to the Republic to try to win more business. Two of the directors entertained Irish customers at the match. It was on their return to England, when Mr McNulty's photograph was emblazoned over the newspapers, that his colleagues realised that he had been involved.



Graham McNulty photographed at the Republic of Ireland match against England at Lansdowne Road last week

Gloucestershire police are examining a document claiming to be from the "Cheltenham Volunteer Force", which left its calling card on the terraces. It states: "England Invasion of Dublin 1995. Ulster is British. No Surrender." The document was handed in to a local newspaper in Cheltenham yesterday.

In the document, the organisation, members of which go to see Aston Villa, which Mr McNulty supports, says: "The Cheltenham Volunteer Force is a secret organisation started in 1985 by football supporters of England. The trouble in Dublin was orchestrated by us to give the English supporters their chance to teach the Republicans that the people of Britain will not give in to the intimidation and murders regularly committed by the IRA."

Combat 18, another far-right organisation, which is a splinter movement of the British National Party, sent at least 50 members to last week's match. Members of the organisation were seen taking part in the riots in Rotterdam in 1993 after England's World Cup hopes vanished when they were beaten by Holland.

Mr McNulty, who has not spoken since his role was exposed, is currently in America.

☐ The Garda team investigating the Dublin football riot is expected to arrive in London for talks with Football Association officials and British police within a week.

A Garda spokeswoman said FA officials had stayed in Dublin until the weekend to help the Garda team to start the work of identifying the English rioters. The Garda were planning to seek extradition, she said.

FA officials believe that they and police have isolated a group of 40 at the core of the trouble and many of these have been identified.

Malicious telephone calls cut by 20%

BY ERIC REGULY

HEAVY breathers, hoaxers and hapless lovers have been dealt a severe blow by the new caller-identification services offered by BT, the company said yesterday.

Its caller-display and call-return services, introduced in early November, have resulted in a 20 per cent reduction in the number of reported malicious calls. By January, the average number of monthly complaints had fallen from 57,000 to 45,000.

Michael Biden, BT's director of sales, said: "This represents a very real reduction in human anxiety and fear." The number of hoax 999 emergency calls had fallen by a similar amount. "All the signs are that the drop is down to hoaxers getting the message that their calls can be traced," Mr Biden said.

BT said that the services, while making it easy for customers to identify callers, has not necessarily made it easier to track and prosecute offenders because the company had had the ability to trace calls for some time, and routinely co-operated with the police on such matters.

There is no charge for the call-return service, which is available across the country. It allows you to check the number of the last caller, but not the ones before that, by dialling 1471. BT said the 1471 feature was attracting almost three million calls a day. It has recognised, however, that callers have rights, too. If they dial 141 before the telephone number they wish to call, their own number will not be recorded.

First-half score goes to rugby woman

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

A WOMAN rugby official won a legal victory in her sex discrimination battle with the English Rugby Football Union yesterday. Beverley Davis, 35, wants to be the first woman on its national committee.

A county court judge granted her an injunction restraining the union from acting against her efforts to stand as a representative for Cornwall or from taking her seat if she is elected. She argued that the union had scuppered her hopes of success in next month's election by declaring women were not eligible to sit on the committee.

Judge Bishop, sitting at Brentford County Court, which covers the union's headquarters at Twickenham, said the union had had ample time to sort out the rules concerning women serving on the national committee. The delay had disadvantaged Mrs Davis: "The defendants have appeared to treat her less favourably than the men."

The issue of whether the union has been guilty of sex discrimination will be decided at a separate hearing in May. Mrs Davis, a dentist at Helston whose case has been backed by the Equal Opportunities Commission, has agreed to step down if the court finds that the union acted lawfully.

The union said the court had not found it guilty of unlawful discrimination. Dudley Wood, the secretary, said: "It has never been the union's intention to impede or hinder Mrs Davis from standing for election."

'Too lenient' parking attendant suspended

BY IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

A PARKING attendant with a reputation for being kind to motorists has been suspended on full pay pending investigations into allegations that he let off too many offenders.

The investigations are being carried out by Sterling Granada, the private company that won a contract to regulate on-street parking for Avon County Council last September.

John Browne, 42, the suspended attendant, was responsible for adjudicating appeals against penalties for parking offences in Bath. Colleagues say he would often cancel tickets issued to foreign visitors and people who persuaded him they had a genuine reason for parking too long in the wrong place.

Earlier this month he was sacked from his £15,000-a-year job but was reinstated on appeal pending the investigation. Next Monday he will be told whether the company will keep him on.

Mr Browne refused to comment but one colleague said: "John was always very fair and he always looked at the facts of each case."



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Victims of violent crime to be asked for views on cases

BY LUCY BERRINGTON

VICTIMS of violent crime are to be asked for their opinions on prosecutions and the granting of bail, the Director of Public Prosecutions announced yesterday. In the past, Barbara Mills, QC said, victims had had too little influence on decisions to prosecute but they were no longer the "forgotten people in the criminal justice system".

Mrs Mills told a conference in London organised by the charity Victim Support: "We must do more to give them a voice, within the proper constraints imposed by the need to respect defendants' rights to a fair trial in accordance with the law.

"Their voices cannot dictate but they must be heard if we are to avoid them feeling doubly victimised, once by the criminal and once by the criminal justice system."

From next month, police will routinely seek the views of victims and pass them to the Crown Prosecution Service, where they will influence the decisions made, Mrs Mills said. She added that the views of victims would be taken into account "whether put forward in their own statements, in information supplied by the police or in compensation claims".

The policy is to be set out next month in an updated version of the *Police Guidance Manual* which, Mrs Mills said, would say that "in most severe cases police will routinely search out the victim's views and put them before the court". Those views would be entered on the case file that goes to the Crown Prosecution Service. With lesser offences, police would not actively seek a victim's views but if they were known, they would be included in the file.

Mrs Mills acknowledged that until now victims had had too little influence. The new policy would ensure that their fears about the consequences of bail, including the risk of intimidation or harassment, were put before the courts. She added that she wanted to see the views of victims affect the decision to prosecute where possible.

Since June last year the Crown Prosecution Service has had the power to appeal against magistrates' decisions to grant bail and has been successful in 70 per cent of cases. The director said that many of the CPS staff would like to do more for victims but were hindered by established priorities and lack of resources.

However, a series of steps had been taken towards giving victims more support. For example, the code for Crown prosecutors, which was rewritten last year, made clear that victims must be considered when establishing where the public interest lay. "It is a principle which the CPS is absolutely determined to follow," she said.

Helen Reeves, director of Victim Support, said the law should be reformed to give victims of crime enforceable rights. Despite the Government's Victim's Charter, published five years ago, victims suffered a lack of consultation, protection, recognition and information.

"Offenders have clear rights in our system of justice but victims have no enforceable rights under the law. We believe victims should have the right to be protected and respected and the right to know what is happening in their case and why," she told the conference.

£10m in property stolen every day

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

CRIME costs England and Wales more than £20 billion a year, Labour said yesterday. Property worth about £10 million is stolen every day, the party said in a report compiled from official statistics and other sources.

The bulk of the cost comes from the criminal justice system, which costs £9.5 billion each year, roughly £422 per taxpayer, the report claims. The cost to business is estimated at £7.5 billion through actual crime and crime prevention.

The study found that more than half of households were not insured against loss and that the cost of house and car insurance rose by more than 20 per cent in real terms between 1988 and 1992 to an average of £556 a year. Goods worth £3.5 billion were stolen in recorded crimes of burglary, robbery and theft in 1993, the report said. That sum included £993 million stolen in recorded crimes of burglary, £56 million in recorded crimes of robbery and £2,419 million in recorded crimes of theft — which meant an average £10 million of property was stolen every day.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said the report underlined why the Government had "lost all claim to be the party of law and order". He said: "We are all paying the price of the Tory failure to tackle crime. For those of us lucky enough not to have been victimised, the indirect cost of crime is borne in higher insurance premiums, the higher price of goods and in tax. Our report reinforces the need for an effective policy to cut offending and reduce the costs of crime."

RHS at odds over site for famous library

BY JOHN YOUNG

A PROPOSAL to move the world-renowned Lindley Library is to be put to an extraordinary general meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society.

Members of the society are at odds over whether to locate the library, currently in Westminster, at a nearby site formerly occupied by Rochester Row police station or at the RHS headquarters at Wisley, Surrey.

The Lindley Library was established in 1886 and contains about 50,000 volumes dating from 1514 to the present, about 18,000 botanical drawings and a vast collection of periodicals and catalogues.

Anna Pavord, one of the leading objectors to a move to Wisley, told the society's annual general meeting yesterday that the Rochester Row plan, drawn up by the architect Rick Mather, offered an opportunity to create a superb new site in the library's traditional heartland.

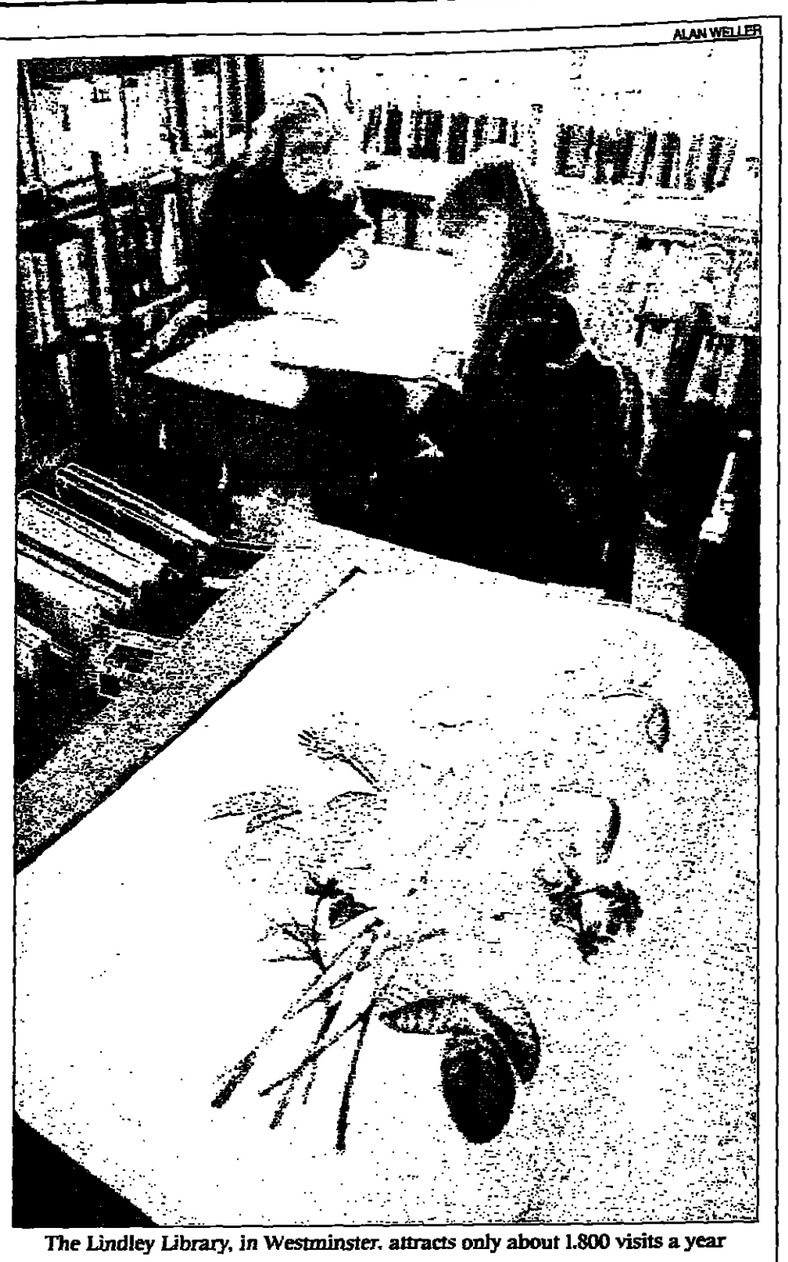
Ms Pavord said that she and others opposed to the Wisley move had been forced to requisition an extraordinary general meeting, to be held in a few weeks, because members of the council had refused all requests for the library to be debated at the AGM.

She said the Rochester Row site, which would be coming on the market soon, would provide an opportunity for the RHS to demonstrate the principles that it should be upholding. "We see this as an unmistakable chance for the RHS to lead the way in the greening of this city," she said. "The library would occupy only about a quarter of the 9,300 sq ft site. The rest could be devoted to gardens to which the public would have access." Ms Pavord estimated that at best the plan would cost slightly less than the £3 million predicted for the move to Wisley, and at worst about £3 million more. In the latter case, however, much of the difference could be recouped from exhibitions and displays.

"A library of the status of the Lindley should be in London," she told the AGM to loud applause. "Do not turn your backs on this great, great chance." Earlier Sir Simon Hornby, the society's president, had urged members not to forget that the main purpose of the library was to further the interests of the society. For many years it had been acknowledged the the building in Vincent Square was inadequate.

The council had so far received 537 representations, of which 469 felt that access to Wisley would be too difficult and 48 were in favour of the move. He said that even in London the library was not extensively used, with about 1,800 visits a year — less less than 1 per cent of the membership.

The gardens at Wisley, on the other hand, attracted more than 600,000 visitors a year. If the library did move, a reading room would be retained at Vincent Square, to which all but the most valuable books could be brought.



ALAN WELLER

The Lindley Library, in Westminster, attracts only about 1,800 visits a year

NEWS IN BRIEF

MP wants 24-hour watch on Mrs West

Rosemary West, who was committed for Crown Court trial on ten murder charges last week, should be kept under 24-hour surveillance, the Gloucester MP Douglas French has told Derek Lewis, the Prison Service chief executive. Mrs West's husband Frederick committed suicide on New Year's Day.

Brothers shot

Two brothers aged 18 and 20 were in hospital after a stranger shot them in the leg and killed their rottweiler during an argument on waste ground in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Museum raided

Anglo-Saxon jewellery valued at £90,000 has been stolen from the Rutland County Museum in Oakham, Leicestershire. Nine sets of bronze-gilt brooches were taken.

Au pair tied up

A seven-year-old girl and an au pair were tied up by three armed raiders — one carrying an axe — who ransacked their home in Epping Green, Essex. The men all wore balaclavas.

Sole searching

A Japanese tourist has sent a pair of shoes 6,000 miles to Cheltenham for repair. Last month the cobbler made no charge for polishing a pair the visitor was wearing.

Off course

Lennie Learmouth, 62, found a 40lb pike when he searched for a ball in a flooded bunker at Wetherby Golf Club, West Yorkshire. The fish was set free in a river.

Owl rescued

Firemen were called out to rescue a barn owl that had become entangled in a television aerial, in Chatham, Kent. The owl was safely reunited with its owner.

Mercury COMMUNICATIONS

COUNTDOWN TO PHONEDAY FOR BUSINESSES



With less than two months to go until PhONEday on 16 April, the countdown is on for businesses to prepare for the day when all UK telephone codes change. As time ticks away, Mercury is urging businesses not to leave it to the last minute to get their phone equipment ready for the change.

PhONEday on April 16, when all the UK telephone numbers will change, is less than two months away.

Mercury customers who have not contacted their phone system maintainer need to do so as soon as possible to be advised on changes needed to their phone system before **PhONEday.**

Some businesses could see their phone bills increase if they do not upgrade their system because the device which routes all their long distance and international calls over Mercury may no longer recognise the new codes.

Mercury customers who need help can call **0500 04 1995** for further information.

Planning for **PhONEday** involves more than a simple upgrade to the phone system.

Research carried out by Mercury Communications has shown that most companies still do not understand the full implications of the forthcoming number change.

A Mercury spokesperson said, "While most businesses, for example, have started changing the phone numbers on their office stationery, few have altered their office signs, alarm systems or updated their customer databases."

What to do.

- Give someone in your company overall responsibility for the changes.
- Ensure your system is upgraded by ringing your maintainer. If you have any problems with this, call the **Mercury Helpdesk on 0500 04 1995.**
- Update all internal databases and mailing lists.
- Reprint your stationery including: letterhead, fax sheets, compliment slips, invoices, and business cards.
- Check to see if you're listed in any directories and make the necessary amendments.
- Change fire and security alarm systems which automatically dial specific numbers (your insurance may be invalid if these are not upgraded).
- Update messages on voicemail and answering machines.
- Re-programme stored numbers on fax machines, telephones and modems. Remember to make a note of the number before you start to update as it will be erased once the new number is entered.
- Change personal telephone records.
- Ensure that all employees are aware of the changes, especially switchboard and reception staff.
- Alter company promotional literature, vehicle livery and product packaging.
- As soon as your system is upgraded, don't forget to remind staff to start using the numbers immediately. They don't have to wait until 16 April.
- Tell all clients, especially those overseas, of your new numbers, both fax and telephone.

Many people don't realise that the international dialling prefix is also changing on **PhONEday.**

To call customers overseas you will need to dial '00' in place of '010'.

There are five cities in the UK – Leeds, Sheffield, Nottingham, Bristol, Leicester – that will be more affected by **PhONEday** than others.

These are the only cities which will have completely new codes instead of an additional '1'.

Mobile phone users will be pleased to know that there will be no extra numbers added to their telephone codes.

FreeCall numbers, premium services and operator numbers remain unchanged.

Without a doubt, the most vital preparation for **PhONEday** is ensuring that your phone system will be able to recognise the new codes.

Simply call your dealer who can perform any changes in a matter of minutes.

If you have any general queries or need any advice about the code change, call the **Mercury FreeCall Helpdesk on 0500 04 1995** which will be able to answer your queries.

- Call your telephone dealer or ring the FreeCall PhONEday Helpdesk on 0500 04 1995.
- Update databases and mailing lists.
- Reprint stationery.
- Re-programme stored numbers in telephone and fax.
- Ensure all staff know about changes.
- Tell all clients about your new fax and telephone numbers.
- Change fire and security alarm systems.
- Update personal records.
- Alter promotional literature and vehicle livery.
- Start using new numbers.

16 APRIL 1995

PHONEDAY

AREA CODES STARTING 0 WILL START 01

هكذا من الأصل

Home Office rejects calls for review of rape secrecy

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Home Office yesterday ruled out a review of the law to consider whether defendants in rape cases, as well as the alleged victims, should be granted anonymity.

The decision, in the wake of the acquittal of a police constable on Monday, sparked a clash between lawyers over the need for reforms.

Sir Frederick Lawton, a former Court of Appeal judge, who said he had "probably heard more rape cases than any other living person", said defendants should be given anonymity until found guilty.

This was recommended in 1984 by the Criminal Law Revision Committee in its report on sexual offences but rejected by Parliament.

Sir Frederick said: "My view, and that of the committee, was that if the victim has anonymity, so should the defendant. Why should this unfortunate young policeman have his name all over the press? It is quite unfair."

Yesterday the woman officer who accused PC Michael Seear of rape said she sympathised with calls for both parties in such trials to remain anonymous. The woman, who cannot be named and whose words were spoken by an actress, told BBC Radio 4's *World at One*: "Looking at it objectively I can see that both parties should be anonymous." The woman, aged 25, added: "You can look at it like this: he may have had his photograph in the papers as the accused but at least he has got a chance to clear his name . . ."

PC Seear, who was cleared at the Old Bailey of raping the woman after a New Year's Eve party, was yesterday reinstated by Surrey Police after a ten-month suspension. He is expected to take time off before returning to work.

Sir Frederick's call for anonymity for defendants was criticised by Jennifer Temkin, professor of law at Sussex University and author of *Rape and the Legal Process* (Sweet & Maxwell). She said that it would conflict with the principle of open justice. "No other defendants are granted anonymity, so why single out the alleged rapist for privileged treatment?"

She said that if anonymity were granted, it would have to apply to all defendants, raising "the whole question of whether the public's right for information, and the question of open justice, should take precedence over protecting the rights of defendants".

Anonymity now extends to alleged victims of all sexual attacks. The only other category granted anonymity is blackmail victims.

There was no support yesterday for removing the alleged victim's anonymity in the event of an acquittal. Lawyers said this would deter victims from coming forward.

Barbara Hewson, vice-chair of the Association of Women Barristers, said: "When you consider that only a tiny proportion of instances of rape ever result in a conviction, because only a small number are reported and of those only a small number proceed and result in a guilty verdict, then all this gnashing and wailing of teeth over the odd defendant who finds himself in the dock is grossly overdone."

Law, page 42



Lawton: sympathy for "unfortunate policeman"

TONY WHITE



Pamela Tulk-Hart: she flew Spitfires, Mustangs, Hurricanes and Typhoons

Pioneer who flew solo after 12 hours

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AS the RAF unveiled its first female Tornado pilot yesterday, one of the few women who flew combat aircraft in the Second World War recalled her days in the cockpit for the Air Transport Auxiliary.

More than 50 years before Flight Lieutenant Jo Salter took off in her Tornado GR1 strike aircraft as a qualified jet fighter pilot, Third Officer Pamela Tulk-Hart was flying Spitfires, Hurricanes, Mustangs and Typhoons for the war effort. It took another 45 years of peace before the RAF decided — in 1989 — that women should be allowed a flying career in the service again but only in a non-combat role. That changed in 1991 when ministers decided to break the taboo and train women to fly fast jet combat aircraft.

Mrs Tulk-Hart, 76, was one of 30 women in the Air Transport Auxiliary who were trusted to deliver new bombers and fighters from the factories to their bases in Britain, and also to undertake the dangerous job of flying damaged aircraft to repair facilities.

Recalling those days, battling against appalling weather conditions without today's sophisticated navigation systems, Mrs Tulk-Hart wished Flt Lt Salter good luck in her pioneering combat flying career. Mrs Tulk-Hart, who lives near Uckfield, Sussex, joined the ATA in 1942 at the age of 22. She had no flying experience and after only 12 hours she went solo for the first time in a Miles Magister trainer. "I learnt to spin in a Tiger Moth," she said.

Although she was never allowed to fly in combat missions, Mrs Tulk-Hart said she faced many hazardous moments. Her worst experiences came when she had to fly aircraft stamped "NEA". She said: "These were 'Not Essentially Airworthy' planes which we had to take for repairs. It was never a pleasant experience."

Photograph, page 1



Tulk-Hart with the Spitfire in 1943

Travellers face ferry misery in blockade at ports

BY JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

TENS of thousand of travellers face severe delays to their journeys tomorrow and Friday as French seamen prepare for a 48-hour blockade of the Channel Tunnel and Channel ports from Brittany to the Belgian border.

Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, has contacted M Bosson, his French counterpart, urging him to keep the ports open. "We will expect the French authorities to take appropriate action," a Transport Department spokesman said. The Government deplored the "totally unjustified" attempt to inconvenience innocent passengers, he said.

The threatened blockade is in protest at the employment of 55 low-paid Polish seamen on two ships run by Meridian Ferries, a small cross-Channel freight operator, on its Folkestone to Boulogne service. If it goes ahead it could bring chaos to the half-term holiday with hundreds of thousands of passengers due to pass through the Channel ports. Bookings this week have also been swelled by a number of special promotions offered by the ferry companies.

The main British ferry operators, P&O European Ferries and Stena Sealink, are drawing up contingency plans to reroute their services to Belgian ports if the blockade goes ahead. These would involve crossings of up to four hours replacing the one and a half hour Dover to Calais route. Day-trippers will be advised to postpone their journeys. "The potential for disruption is huge," Chris Laming, of Stena Sealink, said.

The dispute between the French maritime unions and Meridian is already in its fourth week with mass pickets of several hundred French seamen daily confronting dozens of riot police. Seven sailors were arrested last week when they tried to block the berthing of *Spirit of Boulogne*, one of the Meridian ships.

Meridian said it was "astounded that a band of rioters are being allowed to strangle our activities in Boulogne".

Evans offered £1m to revive Radio 1

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

RADIO 1 has hired the television presenter Chris Evans to host its breakfast show in what is said to be the biggest deal by a BBC radio station.

Matthew Bannister, the station's controller, is understood to have offered Evans's company Ginger Productions more than £1 million to produce the breakfast show for eight months to help to boost the station's flagging ratings.

Radio 1 has lost 5.5 million listeners in the past two years and was bracing itself for further falls after the imminent departure of Steve Wright, the disc jockey who presents the breakfast show. Mr Bannister, who gave Evans his first break on the local London station GLR, said that the signing represented a "great catch" for Radio 1. It was also the first time such a key part of a BBC schedule has been given to an independent production company.

Evans, who made his name presenting Channel 4's *Big Breakfast* and *Don't Forget Your Toothbrush*, will start on April 24. Research showed he would be popular with the 15 to 35-year-old audience.

Watchdog urges tighter control of estate agents

BY LIN JENKINS

MINIMUM qualifications for estate agents should be made compulsory to curb malpractice and improve public confidence, the profession's ombudsman said yesterday.

Complaints rose nearly 10 per cent last year despite the housing market being in the doldrums, Peter Quayle said. The Government has dismissed the idea of professional qualifications but Mr Quayle said: "Anybody can set up as an estate agent without demonstrating that he has at least a minimum standard of competence." Baroness Mallalieu, QC, chairman of the council of the Ombudsman for Corporate Estate Agents, said an ombudsman covering the whole industry was needed to provide redress without the need for costly court cases. The ombudsman currently covers only the corporate chains, making up about half of the industry. "It may be only a very small number of cowboys who are guilty of failing to comply with any code of practice, but that, and a lack of understanding about the role of estate agents, are reasons why members of the public still have mistrust about estate agents generally," she said.

One complaint in the report concerned an attempted rape. A man used a false name and address to obtain an appointment to view a property where the vendor was a single woman. He had claimed to have the particulars of the property, despite not having visited the agent. "Such sellers should insist all male viewers are accompanied," Mr Quayle said.

Yacht instructor lost at sea

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A FERRY rescued four trainee yacht crew after their instructor was swept to his death in the Channel yesterday. P&O's *The Pride of Bruges* was diverted to assist the French-registered *Phoenix* when her crew issued a mayday signal after their Belgian instructor was lost overboard.

As the crew of the ferry, en route for Calais, hauled the trainees on board, an RAF helicopter found the missing man in heavy seas and flew him to the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, where he was certified dead on arrival. The instructor, aged 64, has not been named.

A P&O spokesman said the ferry found the yacht five miles east of Dover but heavy seas prevented lifeboats being launched. The crew pulled the sailors onto the ferry on rope ladders. Last night they were recovering in Calais.

Lyme Bay rescue official suspended on full pay

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE coastguard who was in charge at the time of the Lyme Bay canoe disaster has been suspended on full pay, it emerged yesterday. Donald McDonald, district controller of Portland Coastguard when four teenagers died, has been suspended pending the results of an internal investigation.

The news coincided with the publication of a report on outdoor activity centres by the House of Commons Education Select Committee. It contains evidence from centre managers, local education authorities and teachers, and emphasises the need for a statutory accreditation scheme for Britain's 3,000 centres.

Officials at Portland Coastguard, which is responsible for co-ordinating all maritime search and rescue operations along a stretch of Dorset coastline, last night declined to say whether Mr McDonald's suspension was connected with the Lyme Bay tragedy. A spokesman said they were conducting an internal inquiry and could make no further comment.

Mr McDonald, who took charge of Portland Coastguard in 1992, joined the coastguard in 1979 after serving in the Merchant Navy for eight years. He confirmed that he had been suspended, adding: "This action has been undertaken by headquarters subject to their internal inquiry. The outcome will be made known within the next two to three weeks."

David Jamieson, Labour MP for Plymouth Devonport, whose Outdoor Activity Centres Bill calling for legislation goes to standing committee today, said the select committee's report had emphasised the need to protect the millions of children and adults who used activity centres. "The Government has now recognised the need for action. They cannot turn back, but must urgently press ahead and get the Bill through parliament."

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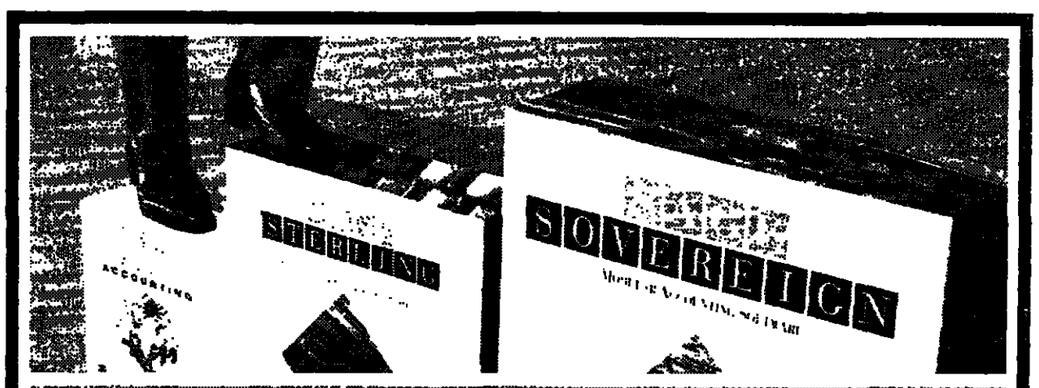
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New legal challenge to border controls launched

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government faces further pressure over its insistence on maintaining border controls with the advent of a fresh legal challenge under European law.

Lawyers for the Standing Conference on Racial Equality in Europe will ask the High Court to refer to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg the issue of Britain's power to make border checks on people arriving from other European Union countries.

The challenge is the second over the border controls. In November 1993 the European Parliament lodged a court case against the European Commission, charging that the Commission had failed to ensure that member states fulfil its duty to guarantee free movement of individuals within the Community. If the Parliament wins in the European Court of Justice, the Commission might be required to demand Britain remove its border checks.

On Monday, the Standing Conference on Racial Equality in Europe will argue that the maintenance of passport checks breaches Britain's obligations under the Treaty of Rome. The group rejects the Government's position — recently reaffirmed by the Prime Minister — that a general declaration by EU leaders in 1985 allows Britain to keep border controls.

The case is likely to add to the controversy over the issue after the resignation as trade minister of the former immigration minister Charles Wardle, who said that the declaration was "not worth the paper it is written on". Conservative Euro-sceptics seized upon this as a further example of the erosion of British sovereignty by Brussels.

Supporters of the European Migrants Forum have also claimed that Britain is acting in breach of European law. Bernie Grant, chairman of the Standing Conference on Racial Equality and Labour MP for Tottenham, said yesterday: "We agree with Mr Wardle that the Government doesn't have a leg to stand on in terms of controls at British borders. We are concerned about the whole way in which this matter has been brought to the public's attention. We believe the race card is being played by Tory politicians."

Lawyers for the Standing Conference say that if their case is successful, it will open the way for individuals stopped at the border to claim compensation from the Government. The Home Office yesterday confirmed that it would contest the case.

Carriers owe £22m in charges

AIRLINES and ferry operators owe the Government £22 million in charges for passengers without proper travel documents, according to a report published today (Richard Ford writes).

The National Audit Office report, *Entry into the United Kingdom*, urges the immigration service to maintain a more rigorous attitude towards making firms pay the outstanding bills, which amount to almost a third of the total charges imposed since 1987. Airlines and ferry companies are liable to a £2,000 charge for each passenger brought into the country without proper documentation.

In spite of new debt recovery procedures introduced two years ago, more than half the £12 million in charges levied since May 1993 are unpaid, the report says. It also says there is a big increase in the number of people using sophisticated forged travel documents.

The report condemns the out-of-date methods used to hold information about suspects from non-European Union states. Each immigration officer has an index of suspects from non-European Union countries but it is in book form, contains 10,000 entries and has to be updated manually every day.



Burton as Hamlet: he ordered all 1,000 copies of the film to be destroyed

Burton's ghost returns as Hamlet in West End

BY LIN JENKINS

RICHARD BURTON'S classic portrayal of Hamlet will return to the West End stage in rare film footage of the New York production.

The film, which his widow Sally Burton found in three rusty cans among junk in the cellar of his Swiss chalet near Geneva, is being prepared by digital technology after being sold to a Hollywood producer.

After the 3½-hour film is shown at the National Film Theatre in April, it will transfer to a West End theatre to recreate the atmosphere of a live stage performance.

Burton allowed the 1964 production, directed by John Gielgud, to be filmed as an experiment. After the 17-week run he changed his mind and ordered all 1,000 copies to be destroyed because he thought they might affect the possibility of more stage work. The cellar copy was premiered in Cardiff in 1991 on the Welsh actor's birthday.

Brian Robinson of the National Film Theatre, where it will be shown as the finale to Walking Shadows, the year-long Shakespeare programme, said: "As a record of a theatrical performance, with Burton at the height of his powers, this is a fascinating document." Burton played the role after making the film *Cleopatra* with Elizabeth Taylor.

Air traffic control sell-off attacked

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT plans to sell off air traffic control were strongly criticised yesterday by an all-party committee of MPs. Under the chairmanship of Paul Channon, the former transport secretary, the committee urged the Government to consider "corporatisation" — a new way of keeping the service in public control while enabling it to make a profit.

"Before the Government proceeds with its plans, we recommend that it publish detailed arguments as to why it does not favour the alternative put to us of converting the service into a profit-making public sector company," the report said. It also criticised the Department of Transport for giving only six weeks for consultation on their original proposals for selling off the National Air Traffic Service.

"Six weeks is simply not long enough to allow interested parties to give their views fully," the MPs said. The department was asked to give more time in the future and publish an account of the next consultation period.

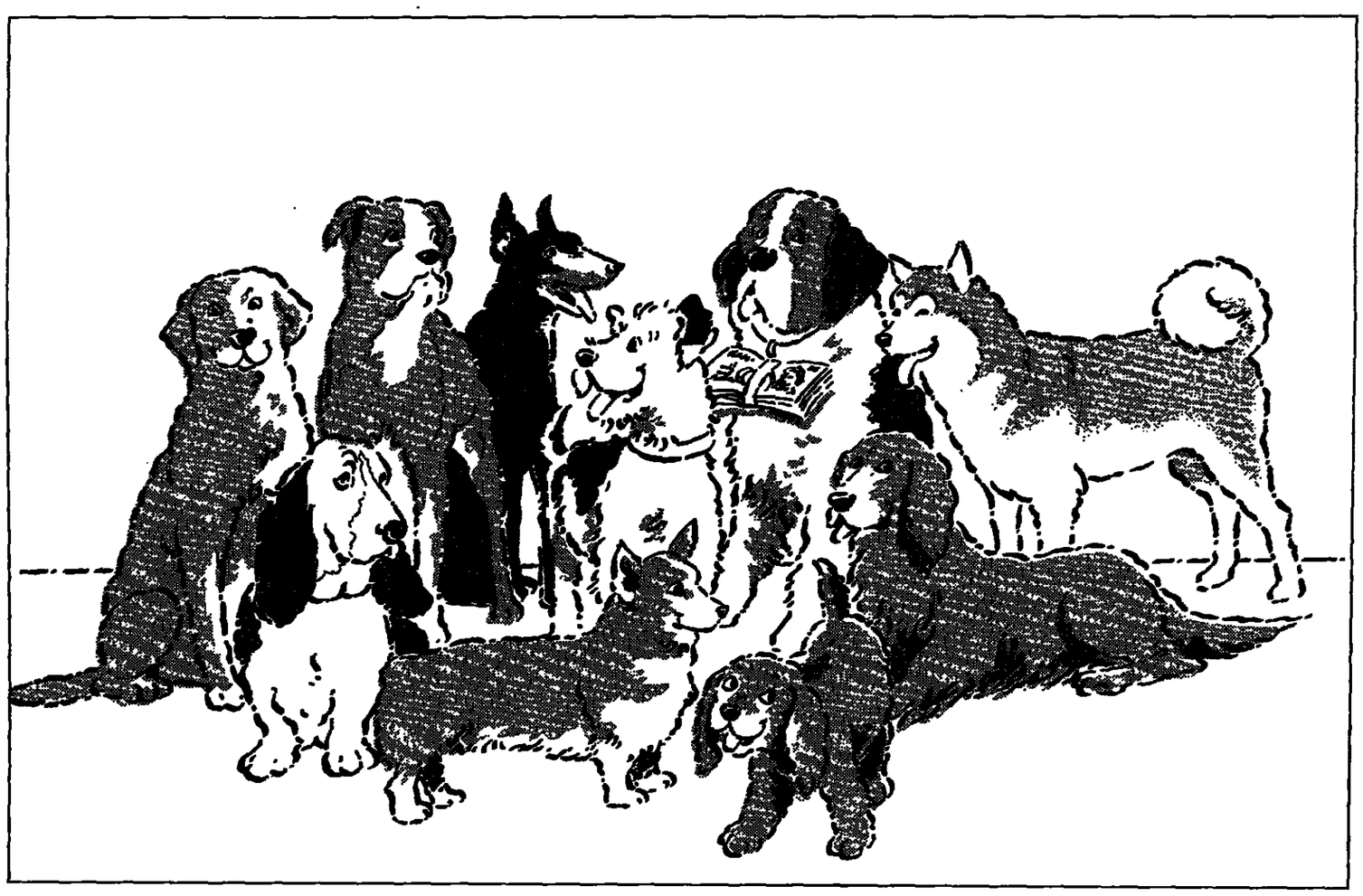
The air traffic service is part of the Civil Aviation Authority which has a safety regulation group to oversee air traffic control. The committee said it was "uncomfortable" with the proposal that this safety group stayed within the CAA under privatisation. The committee recommended that if government plans proceed, the safety group's work should be transferred to a separate body. The committee also recommended that if the service privatised, the Government should have a "golden share" in order to "preserve the UK's national interest in the independence of air traffic operations".

The proposal was dropped from the Queen's Speech because officially there was no time to draft the legislation. But there was also criticism from airlines and air traffic control unions which convinced proponents of the scheme that the measure may not have succeeded in getting through the Commons.

Joe Magee, general secretary of the IPMS union, which represents 3,000 air traffic controllers, welcomed the committee's report. He said: "The case was thin when it was first put forward. Now it is definitely shown to be not proven. It has destroyed the Government's case completely and shown that the CAA's case for investment was utterly wrong."

Dr Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, denied that the report was critical and said that it "reflected our commitment to providing a modern and efficient air traffic control service".

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Communitarianism by Amitai Etzioni

Amitai Etzioni, founder of the American communitarian movement, is one of the most influential and controversial political thinkers in the world today. In this second Times/Demos Millennium lecture, he will present the communitarian case, its critique of both left and right and give his views on how society and government need to develop in the late 1990s.

In the last two years, Professor Etzioni's ideas have been taken up by politicians as diverse as President Clinton and Chancellor Kohl, Jack Kemp and Al Gore. He argues that we need to balance rights with responsibilities and that instead of leaving everything to the state or the market we need to build up the intermediate institutions of the voluntary sector, schools and the family.

The lecture, chaired by David Marquand, Professor of Politics at Sheffield University, will be held on Monday March 13, 1995 at 7.30 pm at Church House Conference Centre, Great Smith Street, Westminster SW1.

Tickets, priced £10.00 (£7.50 for students), are available by completing the coupon below and returning it to Joanne Oliver, Town House Publicity, 45 Islington Park Street, London N1 1QB.

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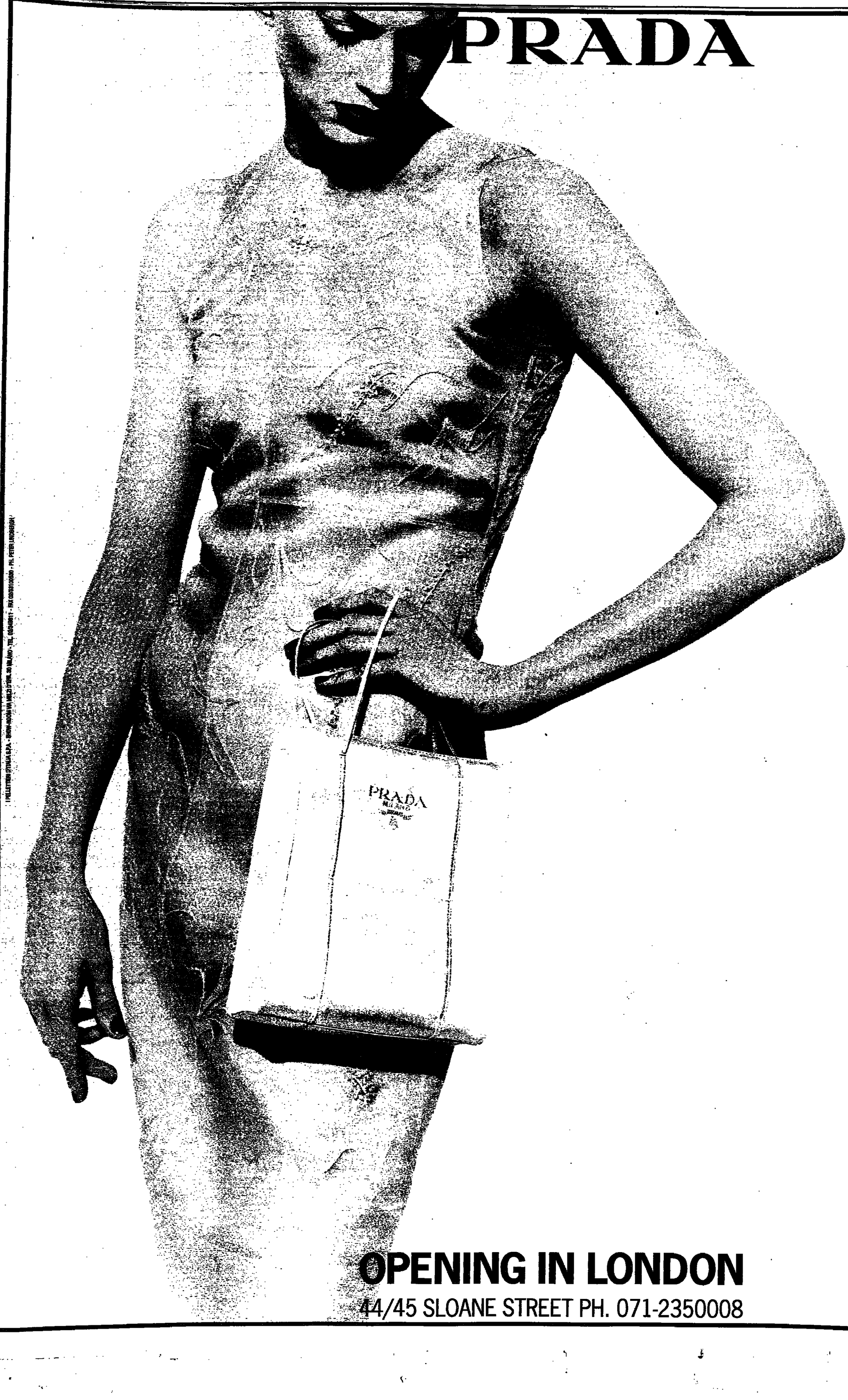
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Cautious Molyneaux seeks compromise while Paisley rejects framework document outright

Unionists present their own plan for Ulster's future

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND JILL SHERMAN

THE leader of the Ulster Unionists urged London and *Dublin to "get out of our way"* yesterday as he published his party's proposals for a lasting political settlement in Northern Ireland.

James Molyneaux dismissed the joint framework document to be published *today by the British and Irish* Governments as hopeless. He said that it should be shelved while the parties to the conflict concentrated on a Unionist plan to build confidence and trust in Ulster through the establishment of a devolved assembly.

However, he made clear that he would not boycott the bilateral talks that the Government intends to hold on the basis of the framework document. He said that as long as his party's proposals were also on the table, he would be prepared to discuss the way ahead with ministers. "We would not walk out of the room simply because it [the framework document] happens to be sitting on a side table," he said in a BBC radio interview.

In contrast to Mr Molyneaux's more cautious approach, Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, rejected the framework document, declaring that his party would not take part in the peace process while it *remained under discussion.* "This document is a declaration of war on the Union, and on the Unionist people," he said.

Mr Molyneaux's aim is to avoid the blame for any eventual breakdown in John Major's high-risk search for peace. His party's 5-page document, *A Practical Approach to Problem-Solving in Northern Ireland*, essentially proposes an internal settlement in Ulster, variations of which have been put forward by Unionists for the past 20 years. It says that lack of "trust" among the political *elements in Ireland is the* main problem and that confidence-building measures are needed to put that right.

Drawing on extensive leaks of the framework document, the Unionists say it fails to reflect the difference between cross-border bodies agreed between Ulster and the Republic and "all-Ireland institutions with executive powers, agreed by the two Governments and imposed by diktat". It adds: "If the framework document is not to become a major part of the problem, instead of a basis for a solution, the two Governments must pull back from their stubborn insistence on the imposition of structures over the heads of Northern Ireland's elected representatives."

The paper also reflects *Unionist anger at the way they* have apparently been outmanoeuvred by Mr Major and Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, to the point that they cannot boycott talks without risk of being blamed for precipitating a resumption of violence. It accuses the Government of being "prepared to threaten Ulster Unionists with the terrorists' guns".

Mr Paisley, who held a press conference after an 80-minute meeting with the Prime Minister yesterday, claimed that the framework document was a sell-out to the nationalists and accused Mr Major of "bartering the birthright of Ulster as part of the United Kingdom".

Publishing his party's submission to the Prime Minister and a separate "formula for *political progress". Mr Paisley* said he would talk with ministers on these papers but not on the basis of the framework document. The Democratic Unionists now hope to persuade the Ulster Unionists to join them in boycotting the peace talks.

Mr Paisley said that the Government's document was *not the consultative or discussion* paper that Mr Major had promised. "There is only one line and one proposition in the document and that is the Dublin line and the Republican agenda. It points the people of Northern Ireland down one road only."

He said that it was an intricate contrivance to be able *to say that Northern Ireland* remained in the UK, while preparing for a takeover by Dublin. "It's quite clear that *this is an effort to buy off the* IRA. There is nothing to strengthen the Union."

Mr Paisley also said that the *Government would try to* "blackmail" the unionists by telling them that violence could return if they failed to support the document.

Simon Jenkins, page 18
Leading article, page 19
Photograph, page 24

ULSTER UNIONIST PROPOSALS

- **Publication by the two governments of a new document (framework 1) identifying problems, grouping them for resolution, and setting out formulas for dealing with each group**
- **Six months of intensive talks involving all parties *and both governments* leading to a second document (framework 2) detailing areas of agreement**
- **Early elections to an "interim assembly" in Ulster *charged with implementing* agreements reached. Responsibility to be shared with *positions of power allocated* according to the number of seats won by each party. Questions about relations between London and Dublin and Belfast and Dublin (strands 2 and 3 of the joint framework document) would be dealt with once the assembly was in place**
- **A referendum after a two-year transition phase with the people of Northern Ireland giving their verdict on the progress made**



48 hours of hectic activity in quest for lasting peace

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Whitehall machine went into overdrive yesterday as John Major and his most senior ministers and officials prepared for today's publication of the framework document. Ulster's political leaders also began a hectic 48 hours, the outcome of which is critical to their hopes and fears.

James Molyneaux, leader of the Ulster Unionists, is fearful that his relatively moderate approach to the Prime Minister's initiative could play into the hands of Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, who yesterday rejected any talks on the document. Mr Molyneaux is playing for high stakes. Many MPs believe that he could be ousted if his strategy fails to pay dividends for his party.

This is the timetable:

YESTERDAY:

10.20am London and Belfast: *The Ulster Unionists publish* their proposals for a political settlement

10.30am. London: Cabinet meets to approve framework document and separate paper on proposed assembly

3.26pm. House of Commons: Mr Major urges the politicians and people of Ulster not to let the chance of a permanent peace "slip away"

3.50pm. the Commons: Mr Major meets Mr Paisley in his office for 80 minutes

5.15pm. the Commons: Mr Paisley condemns framework document as sell-out to IRA

Evening: Mr Major flies to Ulster for dinner with John Bruton, and overnight stay.

TODAY:

8am: *House of Commons:* advance copies of the two documents released

9.45am. Balmoral Conference Centre, Belfast: Mr Major and Mr Bruton launch framework document

Late morning, Balmoral Conference Centre: Mr Major and Sir Patrick Mayhew launch paper on Northern Ireland assembly

Lunchtime, Belfast: Mr Major flies back to London

3.30pm. the Commons: Mr Major makes Commons statement on joint proposals.

Major can expect to gain, but not at the ballot box

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

John Major may receive more praise from historians than thanks from voters for his handling of Northern Ireland. *It is one of* those issues which is of enormous political importance but of little immediate significance to most people. Those who care, care *passionately, but* they are a minority among voters, and MPs.

Northern Ireland is, on a much larger scale, like Rhodesia was from 1965 to 1979, or the Falklands was in early 1980s and Hong Kong will be until 1997. These problems involved incompatible positions, stubborn participants, interminable negotiations and false starts. They absorbed *much time, but produced* few political benefits.

Even after Harold Wilson's abortive attempts to reach agreement with Ian Smith in the *Tiger* and *Fearless* talks of 1966 and 1968, there were repeated, though less high profile, initiatives during the 1970s before the breakthrough in 1979. While the issue caused *bitter divisions* in the Tory party over the period, the eventual solution was an *anti-climax, and was barely* mentioned during the 1983 election.

The successful recapture of the Falklands in June 1982 did, of course, boost Baroness Thatcher's standing, though she would probably have won *in 1983 anyway in view of* the Labour Party's dire state. But the war was only necessary because diplomacy had failed and the Foreign Office had been unwilling to raise the issue after Nicholas Ridley ran into opposition from a vocal *minority in the Commons* after talks with Argentina in 1980. The Falklands did not matter enough for Lord Carrington to believe that it was worth risking a big row.

Hong Kong similarly interests only a small group of MPs and the tortuous negotiations with China over its post-1997 future *did little* for the standing of Lady Thatcher and Lord Howe. The only time Hong Kong has hit the headlines in Britain was four years ago in the debate about which, or rather how many, of its residents should have the right to enter Britain. Now, while there is widespread sympathy for Chris Patten's efforts as Governor, most MPs take a fatalistic attitude. They believe that the initiative has already passed to China more than two years ahead of the formal handover.

These can all be regarded as residual colonial, even imperial, problems, while Northern Ireland is different. It is an integral part of the United Kingdom, rather than a remote colony of which we know little. That is true in the sense that *no British Government* could agree to a change in the running of the Province without the consent of a majority of its people, the triple-lock *which Sir Patrick Mayhew* has repeatedly promised.

The Unionists argue that Northern Ireland must remain part of the UK, yet by *their behaviour they ensure* that it is treated differently from Scotland, Wales or any English region. For them, the interests of Northern Ireland come first, determining their attitude to other parties in the Commons.

*Most people on the main*land also view Northern Ireland differently. That does not mean they want to abandon the Unionists or be seen to give Gerry Adams and the IRA a victory. Rather, they back



Lloyd George: out of office after Irish deal

anything which could bring peace, while not being interested in the details. Mr Major has widespread support for his initiative to which he has applied his skills as a personal negotiator.

Mr Major's commitment was underlined by his eloquent appeal in the Commons yesterday for the continued involvement of all parties in the search for a permanent peace. That may have helped his public standing as a leader. But few British politicians have ever gained from their involvement in Irish affairs. Lloyd George was out of Downing Street the year after he negotiated the deal which led to the partition of Ireland, while his successors have lost little from neglecting the issue. Mr Major's attempt to break the stalemate is right and bold, but may produce few political or electoral dividends.

PETER RIDDELL

Combined effort driven by hope and ambition

BY NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Anglo-Irish framework document is the most ambitious plan for Northern Ireland since the Hillsborough Agreement of 1985, which gave Dublin a consultative role in the Province.

British and Irish officials have spent nearly two years in intense negotiations drawing up the 23-page document. Dublin hopes to placate the Unionists by pledging in the document to amend Articles 2 and 3 of its constitution, which lay claim to the territory of Northern Ireland.

Britain, in turn, will appeal to the nationalists by agreeing to insert the principle of consent into the 1920 Government of Ireland Act, which stated that Parliament had "supreme authority" over the Province. The document will also propose joint North-South bodies, with executive powers over areas such as tourism and agriculture, presided over by members from a new Northern Ireland assembly and the Irish Parliament.

The Joint Liaison Group of British and Irish officials started work on the document in mid-1993 after the collapse of the Brooke-Mayhew inter-party talks at the end of 1992. The principles that underpin the document were outlined in December 1993 in the Downing Street declaration issued by John Major and Albert Reynolds, then the Irish Prime Minister. The two leaders agreed to uphold the will of the majority of the people in Northern Ireland while recognising an all-Ireland element by establishing "arrangements within Northern Ireland, for the whole island, and between these islands". The framework document, which can be accepted, amended or rejected by the political parties and the people of the Province, in effect proposes legislative substance for the declaration of 1993.

Britain's negotiating team has been led by Quentin Thomas, the deputy secretary at the Northern Ireland Office, who also leads the Government's delegation in its exploratory talks with Sinn Fein. The Irish side, which is led by Sean O hUiginn, second secretary in the Anglo-Irish section of the Department of Foreign Affairs, is more political. It includes Sean Donlon and Fergus Finlay, key advisers respectively to John Bruton, the Prime Minister, and Dick Spring, his deputy.

Yesterday Paul Bew, professor of Irish politics at Queen's University, Belfast, described the North-South bodies as the most radical Irish dimension ever to be proposed. Despite the assurances of Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, that the document will be subject to a "triple-lock" of "parties, people and Parliament", Unionists regard the proposals as a sop to the IRA to prevent them from returning to violence.

Sinn Fein, which will consider the document at length before giving its response, will be concerned that Dublin has agreed to amend its constitutional claim to Northern Ireland. The party rejected the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985 because it "copper-fastened partition", and Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, may reach a similar conclusion. However, some commentators in Belfast believe that the all-Ireland elements in the document may allow Mr Adams to tell his supporters that the plans represent an important step towards Britain's disengagement from the Province.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY: In the Commons, questions to education ministers and the Prime Minister were followed by a debate on the Health Authorities Bill, remaining stages. The Lords debated the committee stage of the Pensions Bill and the Civil Evidence (Family Mediation) (Scotland) Bill.

TODAY: In the Commons, MPs sit at 10am for backbench debates, the first of which will be on the export of live animals. At 2.30pm there will be questions to Scottish ministers. David Heathcoat-Amory, the Paymaster General, will open a debate on VAT orders, which will be followed by debates on the Avon (Structural Change) Order, Education (Mandatory Awards) Regulations and Education (Student Loans) Regulations. The Lords will debate the second reading of the Blasphemy (Abolition) Bill.

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Afghans try to rebuild lives from the rubble

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL

THE Old City of Kabul is a pile of bricks. It spreads across the shadow of Bala Hisar fort, where the British suffered horribly in their two failed Afghan adventures in the last century. Here, more than anywhere in this broken capital, the miracle of peace is felt. The Government and assorted warlords pulverised it for three years, raining rockets and shells on simple, illiterate people for a few miles of territory. The guns fell silent a week ago and this corner of Kabul is seeing a rare sight: people. They are coming back gingerly to inspect plots of land that used to be occupied by grand houses, little shops and mud homes. Not one building is intact. The rats and dogs had them to themselves until a few days ago when some of the old inhabitants returned and cleared a space in the rubble for a bed and a blanket. They began rebuilding with bare hands and scraps, planning for a better future on their personal patch of earth. It is a cruel delusion.

The worst battering inflicted on the Old City came from government forces about a year ago when they let loose missiles, bombs and shells that achieved their military objective: Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the Pashtun fanatic who was fighting to overthrow the Government, took flight from the blitzkrieg.

The Government thus won a pyrrhic victory, destroying the most beautiful part of the city and merely driving Mr Hekmatyar a few miles down the road. It was hardly worth while occupying what was left: the survivors moved away, and the Old City died.

In the past few days, Care, the international aid agency, has been distributing blankets, matting and plastic sheeting, the bare ingredients of survival in the bitingly cold nights, to those who are returning. Big crowds, fighting and shouting in their anguish for help, are held back from distribution lorries by fierce-looking government gunmen, who plunge the butts of their rifles into the groins of those at the front.

People receive their gifts emotionally: the widows, veiled head to toe, seem overwhelmed behind their masks. They scream above the hubbub, a desperate wail, in case they are left out. Many are veiled in pale blue, the only vanity permitted to traditional women in this otherwise utterly brown desert town.

Stephen Masty, emergency co-ordinator for Care, escorted a frail old man through the mêlée for his mat and blanket. Half the man's family have died in the war; he lives alone inside the twisted walls of his former home. "I was born here," he said. "My children were born here." They are in a refugee camp in the eastern city of Jalalabad, with 300,000 other former Kabul residents driven out by the slaughter.

The widows are the most tragic. They have no means of livelihood; they are unmarriageable and a burden to extended families who, as good Muslims, must take them in. Any house in Kabul that is intact is packed like a rush-hour train. Ghulam Haider, 21, who is using scraps of material to build a shelter where the family home used to stand, said he lived in another part of the city with 17 family members in two rooms.

There is a wasted optimism in all of this. People think the war is over because Mr Hekmatyar has been defeated and because Taleban, the powerful new Koranic students' army, is not in the business of mass killings in the Hekmatyar style. However, a lasting peace is far away.

Taleban may be less maniacal than the rest, but it has hanged leaders of various renegade militias on its march through the country and it will be hard put to convince the bloodthirsty mountain men, who are joining its ranks, of its puritanical Islamic ideologies.

Leading article, page 19

Peace hope

Islamabad: Mahmood Mestiri, the United Nations envoy to Afghanistan, returned to Pakistan yesterday promising not to give up after his plan for a transfer of power in Kabul from President Rabbani foundered. Mr Mestiri said he would go back to Kabul today to announce the next phase of his peace process.



A commander of the Taleban student army with his unit's BM12 107mm multi-barrel rocket launcher at Charasyab, 15 miles from Kabul

Britain signs 1981 UN landmines code

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN has finally ratified a 1981 United Nations convention restricting the use of landmines, which have killed or maimed hundreds of thousands of people across the world.

Critics say Britain should ban the manufacture and export of all mines, and add that London has ratified the UN Inhumane Weapons Convention only because this qualifies it to take part in a review of the convention in Vienna in September.

The convention sets out a code for the use of landmines, declaring that they should not be used against civilians or indiscriminately and that minefields should be mapped and warning signs posted. The UN and the International Committee of the Red Cross estimate that there are more than 100 million landmines in 62 countries.

It is thought that one person is killed or maimed by a mine every few minutes somewhere in the world.

"In winter, the largest group of casualties are women with babies on their backs, out foraging for firewood," said Tony Cunningham, the Labour MEP for Cumbria and Lancashire North who is hearing evidence for a European Parliament report on landmines to be submitted to the European Commission and the Council of Ministers before the September review of the UN convention. Britain last year introduced an indefinite moratorium on the export of landmines not fitted with a self-destruct or self-neutralising mechanism, but says it does not want to see a blanket ban.

Tim Carstairs, of The UK Working Group on Landmines, said: "Should hi-tech mines be favoured, poorer states will continue to want to procure conventional anti-personnel mines, therefore leaving the market open."

Tun Channareth, who lost his legs when he stepped on a mine in Cambodia and is one of 36,000 victims of the weapons in his country, is to address a meeting at the House of Commons next week to help lobby for a total ban.

Buthelezi leads MPs' walkout

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN
IN CAPE TOWN

THE Home Minister in President Mandela's Government of National Unity, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, yesterday led a parliamentary walkout by Inkatha Freedom Party MPs.

The Zulu leader, protesting at the failure of the African National Congress and the National Party to agree to international mediation on constitutional and political differences, said there had been a breach of faith and a betrayal of electoral promises. Chief Buthelezi vowed that he would keep his MPs absent until a meeting in Ulundi on March 4 and 5. However, Inkatha Cabinet members and representatives of provincial legislatures would remain in parliament.

Earlier, Chief Buthelezi announced a tough new approach on illegal aliens who are taking jobs from South Africans. "Immigrants can no longer be admitted to the country in large numbers," he said. Legislation was being prepared which would make it impossible for foreigners to change the purpose of their visit. The new Bill would also crack down on the increasing number of marriages of convenience. A passport and forge-proof identity card are in the pipeline.

South Africa's economic resurgence is attracting immigrants. Chris Stals, the governor of the Reserve Bank, said that growth over the past few months had made the two exchange rates for the rand — to deter capital outflows — superfluous. He raised the bank rate one percentage point to 14 per cent yesterday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stones roll up for tour

Johannesburg: The Rolling Stones arrived yesterday for their first South African tour, which caused controversy when Winnie Mandela, the estranged wife of the President and a deputy minister, suggested the band was racist for appointing a white promoter (Inigo Gilmore writes). Hotels are fully booked, with fans arriving from around the country and Botswana, Zimbabwe and Namibia for the first concert on Friday.

Protest banned

Cherbourg: A French court has barred Greenpeace protesters from blocking a British ship taking nuclear waste from France to Japan. The group says that it will shadow the vessel. *(Reuter)*

Leader chosen

Niamey: President Ousmane of Niger has capitulated in a battle with his opponents by appointing Amadou Hama as Prime Minister after parliament voted against his own nominee. *(Reuter)*

Nepal tragedy

Kathmandu: The worst accident in Nepal's mountaineering history last November, in which 11 people died, occurred because the climbers were all roped together, an independent inquiry found. *(AFP)*

Baby boon

Rome: Towns and cities in Italy are offering cash and tax rebates for couples to have children in an attempt to reverse a declining birth rate, which is among the lowest in the world. *(Reuter)*

Seoul sacking

Seoul: President Kim Young Sam of South Korea sacked Kim Deok, the Deputy Prime Minister, over his possible involvement in a secret opinion poll on postponing crucial local elections in June. *(AFP)*

China stumped

Hong Kong: Scientists are investigating a mysterious flying object in southwestern China, which witnesses said chopped in half nearly two miles of forest trees, the *Express Daily* reported. *(AFP)*

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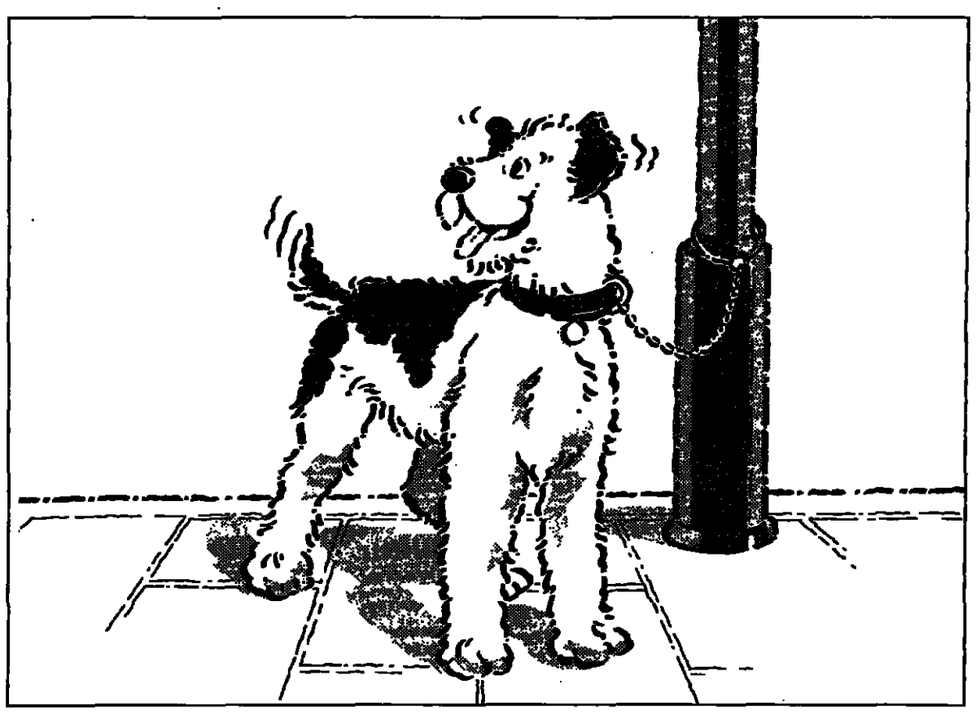
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Peres pleads for peace as divided PLO leaders meet

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

SHIMON PERES, the Israeli Foreign Minister, issued a dramatic appeal for the Palestine Liberation Organisation not to suspend the troubled Middle East peace talks hours before its ruling executive committee opened an emergency *session in Cairo last* night.

Suspension was reported to be one suggestion among 25 motions before the meeting, which was brought forward from its original March date after last weekend's failure of *a meeting in Paris between Mr* Peres and Yassir Arafat, the PLO chairman. The encounter *had tried to resolve the dead*lock preventing implementation of the second stage of the *treaty signed in Washington* in September 1993.

As delegates of the divided committee gathered in the Egyptian capital amid growing criticism of the peace deal among Palestinians and new death threats by radical Palestinians against Mr Arafat, Mr Peres urged the committee to bolster the peace negotiations rather than halt them as a number of leading PLO figures have demanded.

"There is no turning back from the peace process, neither for the Palestinians, nor for us. And if we encounter hardships, the solution is not to suspend the talks, but to *bolster them," the Israeli min*ister and joint Nobel Peace Prize winner said.

Even before the two-day meeting began, controversy surrounding it had illustrated the disarray inside the PLO. The organisation is deeply split between leading Pales*tinians who have remained in* the headquarters in Tunisia and those who have followed Mr Arafat to the overcrowded Gaza Strip. Four of the original 18 members have resigned in protest at the peace deal and a number of others were expected to boycott the meeting.

According to Arab observ*ers in Tunis, which is still* technically the PLO's main base, the movement which for *years was largely united in the* battle against Israel is now cracking.

When Mr Arafat flew into Tunis on Monday night en route to the meeting, no senior *PLO leaders met him at the* airport. PLO officials in Tunis said that Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO's "Foreign Minister", and Abu Mazen, who signed the 1993 deal on behalf of the PLO, would boycott the Cairo meeting. The officials claimed that Mr Kaddoumi was worried because the main Palestinian concerns — the spread of autonomy to the whole of the West Bank, the refugee question, the question of con*tinuing Jewish settlements* and the status of Arab east Jerusalem — had not been solved.

The PLO's Tunis bloc is frustrated because it has no control over the Arafat-led Palestinian Authority in Gaza and Jericho. "Since Arafat returned to Gaza [last summer], he is the only decision-making body in a peace *process that is turning into an* Israeli public relations game," a Tunis-based former close aide to Mr Arafat complained.

Palestinians have been angered by a seven-month delay in expanding self-rule beyond Gaza and the tiny West Bank enclave of Jericho, and by Israeli demands that Palestinian police should tighten their *recent limited clampdown on* Islamic militants living under PLO rule who remain deter*mined to sabotage peace.*

Nabil Shaath, one of the chairman's closest advisers, *denied that Mr Arafat was* under pressure from his inner circle, or that his popularity was diminishing. "On the contrary, it is rising because he is seen as not giving in to Israeli pressure," said the PLO negotiator. But he acknowledged that among the topics to be discussed in Cairo were emergency plans in case the talks with Israel collapsed. Last night, it appeared that at least nine committee members *would attend the meeting.*

Arab-Jew partners in crime 'net $1bn'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

FOR the past seven years, even during some of the worst Israeli-Palestinian violence of the intifada, Arabs and Jews have apparently been co-operating in a money-laundering operation that smuggled at least $1 billion out of Israel to banks in Europe.

The existence of the alleged ring involving ultra-Orthodox Jews and Arab moneychangers from annexed east Jerusalem was exposed when detectives made nine arrests in Arab and Jewish areas after a tip-off. Two Palestinians and a Jewish student from an Orthodox religious college remain in custody. The Jew was remanded for a second five-day period on Monday.

Shmulik Ben Ruby, chief spokesman for the Jerusalem police, said yesterday that income-tax authorities were also involved in the investigation and more arrests were expected. The case is regarded as involving perhaps the biggest smuggling ring uncovered since the foundation of the Jewish state in 1947. "It seems that the main purpose was to spirit money out of the country to evade the tax authorities," Mr Ben Ruby said.

Police say Arab moneychangers passed millions of dollars in cash and gold several times a month to their ultra-Orthodox partners who smuggled it to Swiss or other European banks, using foreign or forged passports.



A Karen family seek refuge in Thailand yesterday after the fall of Kawmoora base

Karen flee bastion in Burmese gas attack

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN MAE SOT, THAILAND

ONE of the world's longest-*running* insurgencies abandoned its last significant stronghold yesterday after intensive shelling and gassing by Burmese troops, rebel and Thai sources said.

The Burmese rained a barrage of artillery on the Karen rebel base of *Kawmoora from* midnight until 3am, forcing 1,400 rebels to abandon the base before dawn, said Colonel Direk Yamngamreap, of the *Thai Army*. Karen rebels said they did not have enough weapons and ammunition to defend the base from the attack by thousands of Burmese soldiers. They said the Burmese troops fired gas into the base, making some rebels *unconscious* and giving others breathing and vision difficulties.

A Bangkok-based support group for the Burmese opposition, Burma Issues, said an unknown number of rebels were killed in the shelling or rendered unconscious. Some were reported to have been killed by the poison gas.

The Karen said that two of their troops were killed and 12 injured in the overnight attack. They had no casualty figures for the Burmese soldiers.

The Karen are among about a dozen ethnic minorities who began fighting for their own sovereignty after Burma gained independence from Britain in 1948.

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JOURNALISM AT ITS BEST

Denial of sanctions breach on Iraq visit

BY MICHAEL DYNES AND JAMES BONE

ORGANISERS of the British business delegation conducting exploratory trade talks in Baghdad yesterday denied allegations that they were breaking United Nations sanctions against Iraq.

Edmund Sykes and Stephen Crouch, the commercial lobbyists who arranged the 27-strong delegation, are understood to have failed to obtain the necessary licence, putting them in breach of UN sanctions. Under British law, British citizens must obtain a communication licence authorising them to conduct trade talks with Iraqi officials while sanctions are in force.

Mr Sykes said in Baghdad that all the British business*men taking part in the trip had* obtained the necessary licences. He criticised Whitehall officials for starting an investigation into the visit. The Department of Trade and Industry refused to confirm or deny reports that it has started an investigation into a possible breach of sanctions, although it said any evidence of sanction-breaking would be examined. "If you wish to communicate with anyone in Iraq *on business, you are* required to have a communication licence," an official said. "Any evidence that sanctions are being broken by communicating without a communication licence would be investigated and could lead to a criminal prosecution."

Mr Sykes said his role was to introduce the British businessmen to Iraqi officials and business executives. "The British Government is well aware of the trip to Iraq," he said. Reports that the delegation was under investigation were *intimidating*, he added.

The trade delegation, which has representatives from the *British food, pharmaceuticals*, water purification and building industries, is the first to visit Baghdad since sanctions were imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Mr Sykes said that the delegation was ready to sign various deals with Iraq, and was prepared to put pressure on the Government to soften its stance on sanctions.

The first serious move in the Security Council to lift the Iraqi oil embargo could come as early as April, when France and Russia seek to reward Baghdad for co-operating with UN weapons inspectors.

Bonn 'mediator in Iran-Israel talks'

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY has been acting as go-between in secret talks between Israel and Iran aimed in the first instance at freeing Ron Arad, the captured Israeli *pilot, security sources con*firmed yesterday. A report of the delicate contacts between the two declared enemies first emerged in the conservative *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. Iran denied yesterday that meetings have taken place, while the Israelis said they would neither deny nor confirm the report.

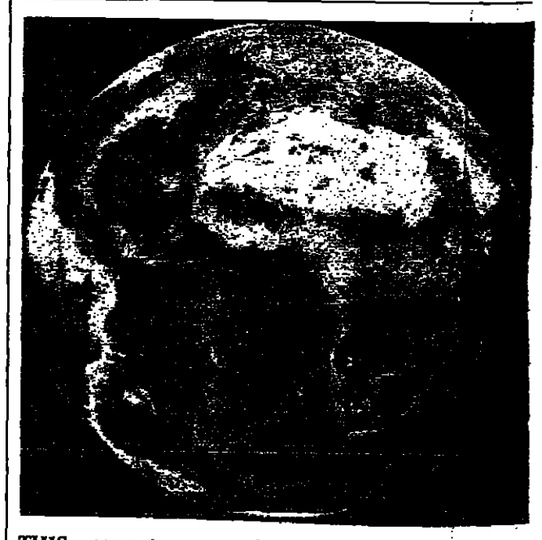
A Western security official was in no doubt about the authenticity of the report which appears to have been leaked from Helmut Kohl's chancellery. "Some of Bonn's allies were bemused in 1993 by Germany's red-carpet treatment of the Iranian Police Minister," the official said. "It was then quietly explained *that the Germans were acting* with the Israelis on behalf of Arad." The last Iranian-Israeli meeting in Bonn apparently was in December.

The pilot was shot down in 1986 over southern Lebanon and since then Israel has made him into a test of the Government's loyalty to captured or lost soldiers. Officially, *the last sign of life from* Captain Arad came in 1989 and even yesterday the line from Israel was that there is still no proof that he is alive.

The German leaks indicate, however, that the Iranians have passed on an up-to-date *video of the prisoner*. Captain Arad's wife has been to Bonn several times recently, apparently to check the authenticity of material provided by the Iranians. A letter from the pilot has reached his wife through German channels.

The talks appear to be co-ordinated by Bernd Schmidbauer, Herr Kohl's top *security adviser. Representa*tives of Iran and Israel have never met in the same room in *Bonn*, but information and offers have been carried back and forth by German diplomats and officials.

There is something of a mystery about the timing of the present leaks. The newspaper report said that the ne*gotiations were close to a* breakthrough. Diplomats speculated that a deal might already have been struck and the Germans were keen to ensure that their role does not go unacknowledged. Alternatively, Herr Schmidbauer may be coming under discreet criticism from America or Britain about Bonn's continuing *contacts with Iran and be* trying to relieve the pressure by authorising the leak.



THIS computer-generated picture of Earth was built from 60 single photographs taken by the Meteosat-5 satellite over two months last year. Individual photographs of cloudless areas were put together to provide a single cloud-free image. Africa takes centre stage, with Europe and the Middle East at the top and top-right, Antarctica at the bottom and the eastern edge of South America at the left.

Not a cloud in the sky

Coconut oil to fuel cars

Sydney: Cars in the South Pacific will be running on the sweet smell of coconut oil soon as part of a research project aimed at giving islanders a cheap alternative to imported fuel, a member of a research team said yesterday.

Oil extracted from coconuts using a new Australian technique will be *pumped into the* tanks of diesel cars and vans in a trial in Fiji this year, said *Dan Etherington*, of the Australian National University. The vehicles will not need any modifications, other than a second fuel tank, to use a pleasant-smelling blend of diesel and coconut oil. *(Reuter)*

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Balladur refuses to sack key ally over phone taps

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

IN THE teeth of a political storm, Edouard Balladur, the French Prime Minister and presidential candidate, denied yesterday that he faced a Watergate over telephone tapping and shrugged off calls for the dismissal of his vital political ally, Charles Pasqua, the Interior Minister.

"This has nothing to do with Watergate," M Balladur said as the media and presidential campaign opponents fanned the dispute over his involvement in the so-called Maréchal-Schuller affair into a political scandal.

In the most politically embarrassing act in 22 months as Prime Minister, M Balladur made a U-turn on Monday, throwing responsibility on the police for the illegal tapping of conversations in a corruption inquiry involving an official from his Gaullist party. The day before, he had taken responsibility for the operation, which had been approved by his office, insisting that there was nothing illegal about it.

M Balladur, hitting back at foes and erstwhile friends yesterday, said that "the real Watergate" involved the "thousands of totally illegal telephone taps" that were disclosed last week as having been carried out by a secret police unit working for President Mitterrand in the 1980s. M Balladur called the Maréchal-Schuller bugging affair a mistake. "There are 3,000 such cases legally allowed each year. Here is a single example of the law being misused. To make this an affair of state is bad faith," he said. "How can one compare this with Watergate, which involved political espionage in the offices of a political organisation?"

The Prime Minister, whose lead in the presidential campaign has been whittled down by Lionel Jospin, the Socialist contender, said he had no intention of seeking the resignation of M Pasqua, the controversial Gaullist heavyweight who is directly in the line of fire in the telephone affair. "He is a very good minister and as such he has my confidence," he said.

That did not mean that M Pasqua, who flew back to Paris from Marseilles to meet the Prime Minister yesterday, had been saved. M Balladur has ordered an investigation to find out why the police, who are under M Pasqua's command, had presented a misleading version of the Maréchal-Schuller case when they applied to the Prime Minister's office for routine authorisation to tap the telephone.

Such taps are allowed only in matters of terrorism or serious organised crime. The complicated affair involved an alleged attempt by the father-in-law of an investigating judge to extort money from Didier Schuller, a Gaullist politician, for having the judge stop a corruption inquiry into his activities. Jacques Franquet, chief of the judicial police, resigned on Monday after the Prime Minister's office accused him of lying.

Political opponents said it was highly implausible that M Pasqua, M Franquet's ultimate boss, would not have been aware of the operation given the involvement of M Schuller, a senior figure in his own political fief, the *département* of the Hauts-de-Seine.

Scenting blood for the first time in the campaign, supporters of Jacques Chirac, M Balladur's Gaullist rival, denounced the Prime Minister's handling of the affair. Alain Juppé, the Foreign Minister and chief lieutenant to M Chirac, declared: "This must be pursued to the end ... to establish clearly who is responsible."

Caution urged on single currency

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN LUXEMBOURG

MONETARY union will be expensive and risky for Europe if politicians force economies together before they are ready to cope with the potential strains of a single currency, Eddie George, the Bank of England Governor, said here last night.

In a speech which trod a careful line between scepticism and polite analysis of the arguments for a single currency, Mr George said leaders debating progress towards a monetary union should be careful not to let "political aspiration ... run ahead of the economic realities".

Mr George echoed the view of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, who said in Bonn on Monday that the rules for establishing the stability of a European Union currency took precedence over the target date of 1997 in the Maastricht treaty. Jürgen Stark, Germany's junior Finance Minister, told EU counterparts on the same day that technical preparation for monetary union should not be allowed to create the impression that Europe was ready before the economies had converged.

Mr George acknowledged the arguments in favour of a single currency "to the extent that it would increase economic and monetary stability within Europe and make the single market more effective". However, he said, "there are also potential economic risks in moving ahead before sustainable convergence is assured".

For a single currency to work, participating states had not only to make their economies converge but also to stay close to each other afterwards, he said. Echoing John Major's warning, Mr George said that an ill-conceived single currency might lead to arguments over high unemployment or subsidies which "could become a source of political as well as economic disharmony within Europe."

Researchers unravel the genetic secrets of France's centenarians



Jeanne Calment celebrates her 120th birthday in Arles yesterday

Oldest woman enjoys star role

FROM ADAM SAGE IN ARLES

THE eyes are a little cloudy now and the ears none too good. But on her 120th birthday yesterday, Jeanne Calment was unflustered by media attention.

As photographers clustered around her at her retirement home in Arles, Provence, Mme Calment looked up with the merest trace of a smile. For a woman who witnessed the first days of the telephone, the aeroplane and the cinema, the international press call held no fears. "The pupils of Arles hotel and Catering College are going to serve you lunch," an employee of the home shouted into her right ear. "Ah," replied the world's oldest living person, who gave up smoking three years ago. "Good. I'm hungry."

"She knows she's the star and it's something she enjoys," said Victor Lèbre, the doctor at the Maison du Lac retirement home. At first we thought that she would be tired by all these journalists, but in fact they amuse her."

This was just as well, given the size of the celebrations. Along with 80 or so local dignitaries, there were dancers, singers and even Philippe Douste-Blazy, the Health Minister, who turned up in time for a piece of birthday cake. There were thousands of cards and flowers, but one person appeared to be absent — André-Francois Raffray, 77, a solicitor who agreed 30 years ago to pay a life annuity of 2,500 francs (£307) a month under a deal to make him the owner of Mme Calment's flat when she dies.

How had she lived so long? Dr Lèbre said: "She comes from a bourgeois family and has never worked." Mme Calment puts it down to God's will. In 237 days' time, if He still agrees, she will beat the longevity record, set by Shigeshivo Izumi of Japan, who died in 1986.

Advice to unborn: blue eyes can add years to your life

MEDICAL BRIEFING

IF YOUR boss's eyes are a steely blue as he fixes your gaze across the desk, beware of their colour — the blue-eyed are more likely than those with brown eyes to make old bones. The chance that his early demise will allow you to seize his chair prematurely is remote.

The survival to 120 of Jeanne Calment has publicised the Chronos study in France being conducted by the Centre d'Etude du Polymorphisme Humaine. Doctors at the centre are investigating the characteristics of centenarians. They have had many subjects to choose from: in 1953 there were 200 French people who were over 100; by 1983 the figure had risen to 3,000 and by 1993 to 5,000. It is estimated that by 2,050 there will be 150,000. The centre is looking at 475 centenarians and 20 pairs of siblings in which both are aged over 90.

Researchers have found that blue eyes convey an amazing advantage, although Mme Calment bucks the trend, having brown eyes. While most French people have dark brown eyes, 42 per cent of the centenarians investigated are blue-eyed, 4 per cent had grey eyes and 7 per cent green. The eyes may not be clear, however; by that age 73 per cent had cataracts. The studies confirm that women longer than men but, whatever the sex, only 4 per cent of those who reach 100 have a higher than average blood cholesterol level.

There is no single hallmark that distinguishes people who are likely to become centenarians, but several genes have been shown to have an influence: one that reduces the chance of reaching extreme old age is linked to a family history of Alzheimer's.

If the news about cholesterol is discouraging, there is some good news for those with a family history of heart disease. It seems that one-gene that predisposes to coronary heart disease in middle age is a beneficial influence, for those who do not succumb to the family tendency to have a heart attack in earlier life are more likely to achieve extreme longevity. The centenarian's life is not necessarily free of ill health before his final illness; 32 per cent have high blood pressure, 20 per cent asthma, 2.6 per cent are diabetic and 16.7 per cent have had cancer.

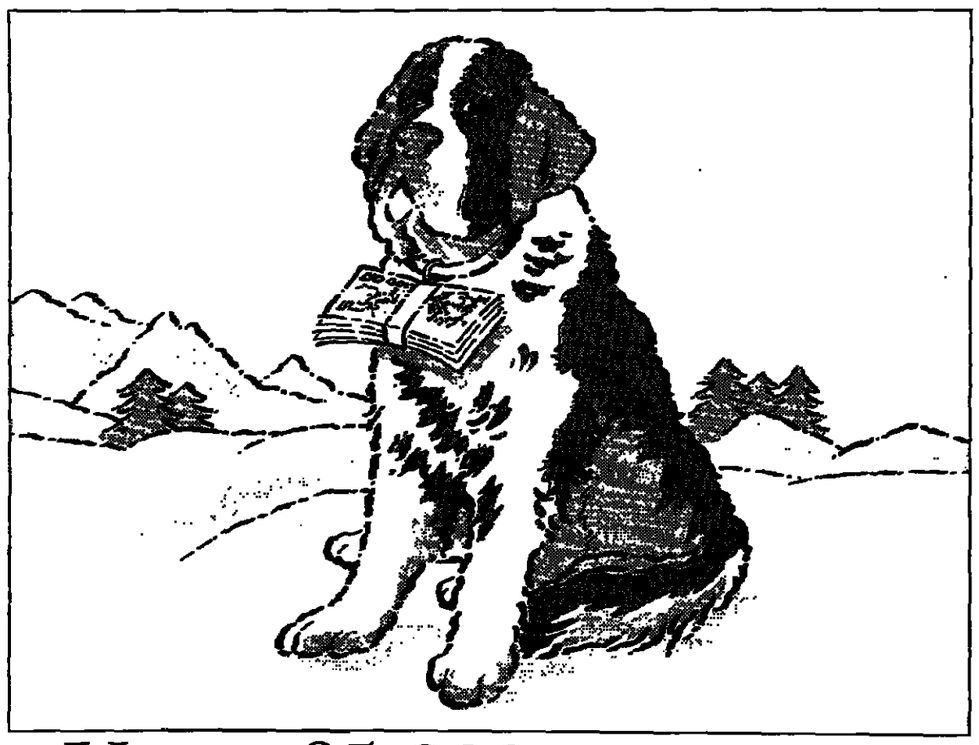
The influence of a good genetic background is illustrated by Mme Calment's history. She has outlived her own family, but she comes of healthy stock; her father, a boat builder, lived to be 86, her mother to 86 and her brother François to 97.

Given the genes, the French research centre suggests that the chances of making 100 can be improved if life is physically active but work is not too tiring. Brisk walks are helpful, but a lifetime spent hoeing beet, for instance, may be active but is too exhausting to favour survival. There is no difference in length of survival between town and country dwellers.

Research works: award medical accolades to the introduction of antibiotics and vaccinations which have had a great influence on ageing, and to the plumbing and heating engineers for improved central heating, refrigeration and sanitation.

Mme Calment attributes her advanced years to her constant interest in the world around her and her sense of fun. She says she sees badly, hears badly and is losing the sense of touch, but that she can still smell well and continues to enjoy her food in general and, in particular, her daily *chocolat*. In any case, she adds: "I will die laghing." Her opinions echo those confirmed by the research centre, which has demonstrated that those whose minds are most exercised age physically most slowly.

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Britain among poorest in EU

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN is among the poorest countries in the European Union, joining the ranks of Portugal, Spain and Greece as a region of below-average economic output, according to the Union's statistical office.

The survey of nations and regions, conducted by Eurostat and based on 1992 data, highlights vastly different patterns of wealth across the Union and within individual countries.

Germany had the starkest internal differences, a consequence of unification, with four out of the EU's seven richest regions, but also five of the seven poorest. The five were in former East German territory, but Hamburg was found to be the wealthiest region within all nations surveyed, with almost double the Union's average regional figure.

Britain's GDP was marginally lower than the average of the 15-nation EU, ahead only of Finland, Spain, Ireland, Portugal and Greece. Within Britain, the South East came out as the wealthiest region, with economic output above the EU average. The poorest regions in the United Kingdom were Northern Ireland and Wales.

Britain's overall poor performance was boosted by strong economic output in Greater London. Without this factor, Britain would have fallen behind Finland in the league table to eleventh.

War in Chechenia 'claimed 25,000 civilian victims'

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

NEARLY 25,000 civilians, many of them women, children and the elderly, were killed in the Russian offensive against Chechenia, according to statistics released yesterday by Sergei Kovalyov, Russia's human rights commissioner.

In a damning report that could have damaging implications for President Yeltsin, researchers working for Mr Kovalyov determined that 25,000 people were killed between November 25, 1994 and January 25, 1995. "The scale of the losses was extreme," said the report, which went on to liken the Russian offensive to the Nazi invasion of Poland. "It is only comparable to the losses Poland sustained during the Second World War."

According to the document the civilian death toll includes 3,700 children under the age of 15; 4,650 women over 15; and 2,650 men over 50. About 14,000 men between 15 and 50 were also killed, but only 650 fatalities were believed to be armed separatist fighters.

Although Mr Kovalyov, the main liberal campaigner against the ten-week conflict, has been accused of distorting the situation on the ground and inflating the Government's much smaller casualty estimates, he may be close to the mark. Aid workers and journalists who have visited the devastated Chechen capital of Grozny have reported that several thousand civilians were killed in the intense artillery and air bombardment.

The toll was high because of the heavy weaponry used and the lack of medical facilities. Many of the wounded died from their injuries.

Some of the dead are still covered in the rubble of the buildings that collapsed on top of them or have been left unattended in the city streets several weeks after they were killed. Most of the dead are believed to be ethnic Russians who were unable to leave Grozny because they had nowhere else to go.

The document did not give a figure for Russian military losses, which are believed to be more than 1,000 dead or missing servicemen, most of whom were also killed in the siege of Grozny.

The reported scale of the casualties did not, however, appear to have any calming effect on the ground. Yesterday morning fresh fighting was reported across the breakaway republic as Russian forces launched an offensive against rebel-held towns and villages to the east, south and west of Grozny. Russian bombers reportedly hit Chechen positions in Gudermes, Argun and Samashki, backed up by tanks and artillery.

For their part the Chechens do not appear to be ready to give up the fight. Anatoli Shabad, a liberal member of the Russian parliament who recently met General Dzhokar Dudayev, the Chechen separatist leader, said that the Chechens were capable of launching a counter-attack to retake Grozny.



Van Miert: waive his diplomatic immunity

Belgian 'bribe' search

BY GEORGE BROK

THE home and office of Belgium's European Union Commissioner have been searched by police investigating allegations that bribes were paid to Belgian political parties to persuade the Government to buy Italian military helicopters.

Karel van Miert, the Commissioner for Competition Policy, waived his diplomatic immunity and allowed police to search his Commission office and home. A small number of papers were taken from his home. Mr van Miert was President of the Flemish Socialists in 1988 when bribes were allegedly paid during the purchase of 46 helicopters by the Belgian Army. He has denied any wrongdoing.

Police also want to interview Willy Claes, the Nato Secretary-General, who was Belgian Minister for Economic Affairs in 1988. He has denied any knowledge of the bribery. Several alleged middlemen were arrested last week.

TV's commercial break

Moscow: Russian state television has temporarily banned all commercials, calling advertisements "a source of irritation and disappointment", officials said yesterday.

Directors of Russia's huge state network, Ostankino, said television should be an instrument for accord and agreement in society, and that advertisements would be banned "until strict rules are set up to regulate advertisements in the interests of economic development of society and ethical standards". Ostankino is due to complete reorganisation in April.

The announcement came just two days after President Yeltsin limited advertising of products that could be injurious to health, such as alcohol and tobacco. *(AP)*

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Dole outstrips rivals in New Hampshire race

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE, AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICAN presidential hopefuls returned to Washington yesterday after an opening three-day foray in New Hampshire that established two things: Robert Dole is the man to beat, and preferential treatment for racial minorities is an issue with which his party plans to split the Democrats in 1996.

Mr Dole was far ahead of his eight possible rivals for the Republican nomination. His campaign ran a full-page advertisement in a local newspaper listing 20,000 New Hampshire supporters, 33 times more than his entire vote of 597 in New Hampshire's 1980 primary when he finished seventh.

Gone, too, was the snarling Bob Dole that New Hampshire rejected in favour of George Bush in the 1988 primary. This time he was funny and relaxed, joking that he had left behind his wife, Elizabeth, president of the American Red Cross, lest she turned his meetings into campaigns for blood donors. The Senate leader also joked that at 71 he might be a little young and would therefore balance his ticket with Strom Thurmond, a fellow senator who is 92. Mr Dole is seeking to turn his age to advantage by stressing his membership of a generation that weathered the Depression, helped to win the Second World War and then built America into a world power that defeated communism. Mr Dole will formally announce his candidacy on April 14, the 50th anniversary of the day he was seriously wounded in Italy and left with a crippled right arm. He recalls how he decided to mount a third presidential bid during last summer's D-Day commemorations because he believed there was "maybe one more mission, one more call to service" for his generation.



Dole: seeking to gain advantage from age

It is a strategy that cleverly contrasts himself with President Clinton and Senator Phil Gramm of Texas, his strongest rival for the Republican nomination. Both avoided the Vietnam War and both belong to a baby-boom generation widely perceived as selfish and self-indulgent.

Mr Dole's age means it is particularly important that he chooses a running mate of stature, and he has teased the media by disclosing that he recently had a meeting with General Colin Powell, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. However, General Powell remains silent about his political ambitions and affiliations. Mr Dole is tacking rightwards quickly to court the Republican activists who determine their party's nominee, and joined all his main Republican rivals in New Hampshire in denouncing "affirmative action" laws ordering that people be employed, admitted to colleges or awarded contracts on the basis of their race or sex.

This is an issue that is rapidly gaining traction in America, with polls showing most Americans believe programmes have gone too far in promoting civil rights and now discriminate against whites. It is an issue Republican strategists believe could secure the support of millions of angry white Americans and shatter the traditional Democratic coalition of liberals and conservatives.

Mr Dole's possible campaign for the White House will be helped by the Republicans' onslaught against Mr Clinton in Washington with Newt Gingrich's promise of House votes within 100 days on key Bills in the *Contract with America* reaching the halfway stage today.

However, the easy part appears to be over with initiatives beginning to pile up in the Senate, traditionally slower and more cautious than the House of Representatives. Beyond that lies the threat of Mr Clinton's veto.

By Day 50 today, the only promise in the *Contract* signed into law is the one making Congress live by the same workplace and civil-rights laws as other Americans. Other measures are still being debated and two have been defeated.

However, Mr Gingrich is on target and the entire *Contract* will have been brought to the House floor for a vote one week before the 100-day deadline on April 13. That was what the Republicans promised, not that the Bills would all be passed.



AN ELDERLY Aborigine, almost blind from cataracts, sits in his poor home 150 miles north of Alice Springs. Past racist policies have left devastating social scars on the indigenous people of Australia, according to the first national survey of Aborigines, published yesterday. Charles Perkins, the Deputy Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commissioner, said: "Our people are less educated, more poorly housed, four times more likely to be unemployed, at greater risk of imprisonment and in worse health than the wider Australian community. To a significant extent our culture is intact, but we demand a quality of life where our culture and our people can do more than survive." *(Reuter)*

Image of a people's scars

Mexico clinches US aid deal

FROM REUTER IN WASHINGTON

THE United States reached agreement with Mexico yesterday over a $20-billion (£13-billion) American aid package to underpin the ailing Mexican economy.

The agreement comes after five days of often difficult negotiations and allows the aid package, authorised three weeks ago by President Clinton, to go forward. The American support will anchor an international rescue package worth about $50 billion, designed to aide Mexico over a cash crisis brought on by a heavy reliance on short-term debt and a burgeoning trade deficit.

The US Treasury released few details about the agreement but said it would provide more information at a signing ceremony attended by Robert Rubin, the Treasury Secretary, and Guillermo Ortiz, the Mexican Finance Minister.

The latest talks, which began last Thursday, came as the American and Mexican financial markets were buffeted by concern over the negotiations.

Reports suggested that the United States intended to freeze payments for Mexican oil as a condition for bailing the country out of its crisis. Instead of paying directly for Mexican oil, American companies would deposit payments with the Federal Reserve — the US central bank — which would transfer them to Mexico. This proposal was intended to ease the concerns of American critics who feared the aid would not be used effectively or might not be repaid.

On Monday the Mexican Government increased short-term interest rates by 10 percentage points, raising the rate on some government debt to 50 per cent. The rise was seen as Mexico's response to American pressure that it should tighten monetary policy to qualify for the American aid package.

The apparent difficulty in reaching a deal with Mexico has further shaken the Mexican stock market and bedevilled the dollar, under attack by speculators.

Jazz landmark blows birthday trumpet

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE Village Vanguard, a tiny triangular room in Greenwich Village that is America's oldest jazz club, is celebrating its 60th anniversary with a week-long birthday party reuniting many of the stars it made famous.

Since it opened in a former speakeasy on lower Seventh Avenue in 1935, the Vanguard has become a shrine for jazz fans with performances by such notables as Thelonius Monk, Miles Davis, Sonny Rollins, Charley Mingus and John Coltrane.

Even though it is impossible to see a whole band at the same time from anywhere in the room, the wedge-shaped club has near-perfect acoustics and more than 100 live albums have been recorded there.



Monk: helped to put the Vanguard on the map

In its early years, the Vanguard was also a showcase for Beat poets, comedians and folk singers, and became a mainstay of New York bohemia.

Max Gordon, the club's legendary founder, gave Woody Allen his first break as a stand-up comic — although he bombed with the audience. Barbra Streisand and Harry Belafonte both got their first chance as singers on the Vanguard stage.

"It's the oldest continuous jazz club in the nation, probably the world, and Max never changed to suit the fashions of the time," said Nat Hentoff, a jazz critic and writer for the *Village Voice*.

The Vanguard is still run by Max Gordon's widow, Lorraine. "People work here forever because this place is like a family — a dysfunctional family," she says. Conducting business from the club's former kitchen, which also doubles as a dressing room, Mrs Gordon has remained true to her husband's spirit of experimentation.

Despite lucrative offers to licence other Village Vanguards all over the world, she focuses her attention on the club and strives to bring new talent to the public.

To celebrate the 60th anniversary, however, she has booked a host of stars long associated with the club: Shirley Horn, the vocalist, Pete Seeger, the folk singer, Bobby Short, the pianist and singer, and Allen Ginsberg, the poet. President Clinton, a saxophonist, has sent a tribute, and the local council has renamed the street outside "Max Gordon Corner".

Quest for super-bug lures biologists into city sewers

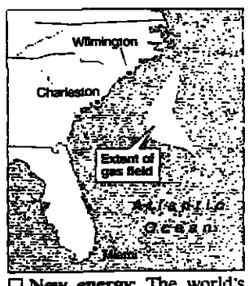
BY ANJANA AHUJA

BIOLOGISTS have descended into the gutter in their quest for the ultimate super-germ. A trawl of the Atlanta sewer system uncovered a virus so pugnacious it killed virtually every bacterial infection in mice. The results are encouraging doctors in their search for new ways to combat resilient microbes.

Bruce Levin of Emory University, Atlanta, told the annual meeting of the American Association or the Advancement of Science that the experiment to isolate phages — viruses that kill bacteria — was based on ideas first propounded in the 1920s. The approach was abandoned, however, after the discovery of antibiotics.

Since then bacteria have been mutating into ever more resistant strains, with so-called super-germs evolving faster than scientists can eradicate them. The same antibiotics are often prescribed for a spectrum of infections, and the bacteria quickly learn to fight common drugs. Experts often recommend letting weak infections go untreated to avoid building resistance. For more serious diseases, doctors hope to keep one step ahead by pitching germ against germ.

Deliberately exposing people to harmless bacteria that will crowd out harmful types is one approach and serum therapy may also make a comeback. It involves taking antibodies from the blood of people, or possibly animals, to boost the body's defences.



☐ **New energy:** The world's energy problems could be solved by tapping into the ocean floors, geologists have told the conference.

Icy water-methane mixtures called hydrates have been manufactured in laboratories but flourish naturally only at the high pressures and low temperatures found underneath the ocean. The harnessing of these natural gas reserves would triple the world's fossil fuel reserves.

Research cruises have already sampled the hydrates and collection will begin in November. Britain is managing the scientific side of the 19-nation Ocean Drilling Programme, which will first drill in the shallow Atlantic off the coast of North Carolina.

☐ **Race update:** Race has no meaning in biological discussions, scientists have told the meeting. Its dismissal comes in a updated definition of race by Unesco. It concludes that people would be better classified on the basis of geographical location than physical attributes such as colour.

The new definition, submitted to Unesco by anthropologists, is expected to be approved shortly. Scientists claim the present concept of race is rooted in colonialism and has no bearing on human evolution. The revision would appear to discredit highly publicised research work carried out recently in the United States, which claimed a link between race and intelligence.

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The spouse who sacrifices a high-flying career to care for husband and home deserves her half of the pension

Paying for the pleasure of a wife



LIBBY PURVES

IT IS evening. The City is nervous, the roads bad, the trains late. Two captains of industry, stress-lines deep in their chalky faces, arrive at their respective homes. Coming through the front door, one of them finds order, the smell of wholesome food, cheerful children and a gin and tonic to drink while wandering round the garden in the perfumed dusk.

The other one has to kick the swollen front door open, pick up the milk bottles, deposit them beside the sinkful of reeking cereal bowls from breakfast and stare at a note saying "Mrs M. has 'flu, Anneliese's half-day so pse fetch kids from Janet's by 7 'cos she's going out. I'll be late, design meeting. Will pick up pizza". The lonely figure sorts gloomily through the post on the mat, noting that the washing machine man called but nobody was in, and trudges off into the night to collect a brace of tired, fractious children from the neighbour.

Which executive, do you suppose, arrives in the office next day best prepared to nuke the opposition and lead from the front? The first (note how carefully I have not committed myself to gender) is reasonably likely to turn up dapper and spry as befits a corporate kick-boxer.

The second will bring a crumpled shirt-front, a scrawled list of potential cleaning ladies' telephone numbers, and a carrier bag containing a defective Star Trek toy to be exchanged at Hamleys. Alternatively, having refused to bear any of the above burdens, he or she will bring an earful of marital discord and a splitting headache.

What I am trying to say is that spouses (oh, all right, women: reverse the genders yourself) who sacrifice their careers in marriage do, indeed, earn their half of the pension. God bless the rebel Lords who forced the Government to recognise this on Monday. Power to their noble elbows.

I never expected to say this. In the idealistic Seventies we honestly thought the problem would end with our mothers' generation, because henceforth all decent husbands would take half the domestic load, so their wives could go out and earn their own pension. Life, alas, has brought us low and taught us better. We now see that every high-flying career needs a domestic support system. Not only do men dream of having a traditional wife, women do as well.

It is a truth universally acknowledged that every working mother needs a wife. A proper wife; by which I do not necessarily mean one who does no paid work at all: she may have something, but she firmly puts it second. Preferably it is part-time or portable anyway. She will relocate good-humouredly to Newcastle or Mannheim, entertain your colleagues and take time off with a sick child. Her own work is not stressful, so she has stress-bearing capacity to spare. In our dreams!

Everyone with a demanding career (except the odd committed loner) fantasises about coming home to order and harmony, to a home life maintained not by sullen and unreliable hirelings but by committed love. We dream of somebody to care about our clothes and our diet, to run our children's lives with affectionate discipline: of a house which is fully inhabited. The kind which can have a dog.

The dog thing is symptomatic: there was a report recently that the canine population is dropping as two-career families turn to cats, which fit in better with empty houses and busy lives. All very well if you prefer cats as I do; but think of the stress on natural dog-lovers. Such types look to their pets for uncritical adoration, intense sociableness and obedient anxiety to please: if they are being forced to make do with the aloof, jeering insubordination of cats, no wonder the poor devils end up with their self-respect in tatters and can't punch their way out of recession.

No, careers run smoother when the hearth is harmonious. Life in the home of two parents who are equally pressured, earning equal pensions, is frankly hell on wheels. Ageing male opponents of the new deal will grumble that their ex-wives were spendthrift neurotics who did their career no good at all. More fool they for marrying them, I say.

ANYWAY, lots of them will be lying. Even the least energetic wives contribute something, if only an ability to listen to someone else's hellish day without the constant need to break in and cap it with a description of their own. The idlest woman I ever met was treasured by her husband. "Just looking at her relaxes me," he says. "A bit like having tropical fish."

Since I am aware that my husband often finds me more like a tankful of piranhas, I respect his point of view. The perfect spouse is not only Martha, but Mary, too. Give 'em the money.

TONY WHITE



Zeffirelli: he laments today's lack of artistic genius for future generations to look back on. "We leave behind a desert. This disquiets me deeply."

Age cannot wither him

Franco Zeffirelli — in London to edit his latest film, *Jane Eyre* — talks to **Dalya Alberge** about his two mistresses and his beloved dogs

As a child of eight in Florence, Franco Zeffirelli, the film and opera director, used to be followed on the way to school by a woman, who would mutter at him: "*Bastardino*, little bastard, you little bastard. You'll find out. Don't worry, some day you'll find out." Her shadow seems to have followed him for most of his 72 years; there is an unmistakeable sadness in his otherwise powerful face.

Zeffirelli was born out of wedlock in an age when illegitimacy was a scandal. His mother and father were married to different people. The woman who hounded him was his father's wife. He was a child who was mocked at school. It was a scandal fuelled by the fact that his mother was a prominent couturier in Florence. His father was a businessman, an importer.

For Zeffirelli, the pain has not been eased with the passing of decades or the experience of facing a firing-squad during the war, as a partisan fighting the Fascists. Nor has it been relieved by worldwide critical acclaim for his work — operas such as *Tosca* with Maria Callas and Tito Gobbi, and films such as *The Taming of the Shrew* with Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor.

Zeffirelli cannot forget his beginnings: twice in our short conversation he repeats that his mother refused to abort him. That explains the passion with which he talks about abortion, "that tragic word". "Abortion is the strongest shame of the human race. There is nothing more important than protecting human life from the very beginning." In 1993, he called for the death penalty to be brought back for women who have abortions.

He has never married: for some, he says quietly staring down at the floor, that is their destiny. At the age of six, his mother died and he was brought up by a succession of different women, including a distant cousin of his father. "Every time I offered love to one of these women, I was forced to take it back and give it to another. Soon I stopped looking for affection and became very uncommunicative emotionally. I still have difficulty in trusting love when it is offered."

He talks instead of his two mistresses — opera and film. When he is involved with one, he misses the other. Only his Jack Russells can compete. He has seven of them, all with English names like Dolly and Jeremy. It is because of them — or rather, our quarantine laws — that he does not buy a house here, though he spends much of the year in London. Instead, he rents a tiny Georgian house in South Kensington. Only videos of *Jesus of Nazareth*, in which he directed Robert Powell and Laurence Olivier, and a couple of massive television sets give the flimsiest of clues to the occupier.

> '*Jane Eyre* is a completely unsurpassed modern novel'

"*Jane Eyre* has been the dreariest period of my life," he says suddenly. Just as he seems to be changing the subject to the reason he is in London at the moment — finishing the film by April in time for a release in the summer — he adds: "I was very lonely without my dogs." He bemoans the "four solid months" he has been away from them. "Really awful."

He is presently immersed in editing *Jane Eyre*. The irony that the £10 million picture is being made in Britain without British investment does not escape him. "The money comes from Italy. It's being shot here, using English actors, English studios, English hotels, English technicians, but the English have put very little money in it." He talks in a heavy accent that crushes the words: when he says "length" it sounds like "land".

His is the fourth *Jane Eyre* to have been brought to the screen. The most famous was the 1943 version with Orson Welles and Joan Fontaine. He smarts when asked how his interpretation differs, saying that you cannot make comparisons. "You can make 200,000 versions of *Romeo and Juliet* but they will never be the same," says Zeffirelli, whose sumptuously passionate film of 1968 starred Olivia Hussey and Leonard Whiting at the ages of just 15 and 17.

He is, he explains, trying to be faithful to the heart and mind of Charlotte Brontë, though "everything, when you adapt a novel of that quality and value, cries out for the medium for which it was created". If anything, he has sought primarily to bring out the modernity of the novel. "It is a completely unsurpassed modern novel. It could happen today, except for the horrors of the day, such as the way they treated children. But this girl is a contemporary approach to woman. That's why the novel has been so successful with generations of women."

Casting Jane was hard. "I tried and tested all the girls available. I went through hundreds." Eventually, he whittled down the numbers to a dozen. But something was missing from all of them. "I needed something different, a dimension." He knew instantly, the moment he did a test with Charlotte Gainsbourg, that Franco had found his Jane. "She is wonderful. She goes against the rules of the game. She is not particularly good-looking," he says as straightforwardly as if he was complementing her. "She doesn't give anything except what matters. Her performance is quite unforgettable." Of William Hurt, who plays Rochester, he speaks of this being the best performance of his career.

Observing the way that standards have fallen in the past 30 years, Zeffirelli laments the absence of giants such as Burton. "It is like many other things about culture. Why are there no great painters? It is a fallow period. We leave behind a desert. In generations, people will ask what happened between 1980 and 2000. Nothing happened. This disquiets me deeply."

He talks too with passion about cruelty to animals: as a politician — he became a senator in Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia party last March — he is campaigning for their rights. "Life is life, whether human or animal. My motto is Leonardo's famous line, that the day will come when the killing of an animal will be punished by the law with the same severity now accorded to the killer of a man."

Zeffirelli feels as strongly about society's emphasis on youth. He seeks to bridge the divide between young and old. Yet society dismisses the older generation, he says. "I don't say that because I'm in that age bracket. I do now the best work in my life. I'm mature. I have a harmony in my mind, in my spirit. I know what's right and wrong better than I did ages ago."

Indeed, he ranks *Jane Eyre* as one of his most powerful films. "I wouldn't have done *Jane Eyre* 20 years ago. I needed more exciting stories. This is a deep, intense story. There is nothing except these characters — magnificent, modern characters."

Has this man unlocked the secrets of happy marriage?

Dr Jack Dominian believes he has produced a blueprint for wedded bliss, writes **Julia Llewellyn Smith**

Dr Jack Dominian was 21 and climbing Worcestershire Beacon when he fell "romantically in love" with Edith, who was to become his wife. Why do you say "romantically", I ask Dr Dominian. For most people, the phrase "to fall in love" would be enough. "I mean I fell in love in the intuitive sense," he explains, impatiently. "I fell in love instantly, which is romantic. Otherwise, you fall in love gradually, which is gradual."

Dr Dominian likes to categorise things: to sort the thorny mysteries of love and marriage into neat subsets. And once his findings are classed into diagrams and tables, he uses them to produce a blueprint for what makes the perfect marriage.

For nearly 25 years, his mission, as the founder of the charity One plus One, has been to investigate not why couples divorce, but why they stay together. Last year, he was appointed MBE for his services to the institution; now he has published his findings in *Marriage*, billed rather ambitiously by his publishers as *The Definitive Guide to What Makes a Marriage Work*.

In case we wonder what makes Dr Dominian, 64, so qualified, we can inspect his record: educated at Cambridge and Oxford, a senior consultant psychiatrist since 1965, 15 books (with titles such as *Christian Marriage*) and, most importantly, a 40-year-marriage to Edith, by whom he has four daughters ("two married, two cohabiting").

Edith, in sensible black skirt and cardigan, with hair in a bun, answers the front door of their comfortable home in Rickmansworth, a leafy Hertfordshire suburb. She is smiling and friendly, which is more than can be said for her husband, who reluctantly comes downstairs. "I don't like publicity very much," he says, in a guttural accent (he was born in Greece and learnt English during the war in India). "I like writing books."

Nonetheless, he needs the publicity, not only for himself but for his organisation which, he claims, is woefully underfunded. "All we are putting in [to marriage-related charities] is two to three million pounds." Meanwhile, says Dr Dominian, 40 per cent of British marriages end in divorce, costing the taxpayer "at least" £3 billion a year, in terms of social security, police, court and prison expenses, lost production and NHS costs.

His book produces statistics to show that children whose parents stay together — however miserably — stand a greater chance of happiness than those whose parents split up. Dr Dominian is a case in point; he describes his parents' marriage as "turbulent", yet only death parted them. But his criterion for happiness is that the children do not divorce, either, which assumes that marriage alone is the key to fulfilment.

"It is," says Dr Dominian. "There are only two things in life which give us the majority of our contentment. One is work and one is marital life, and I would rate marital life as the most important. It fulfils a certain number of basic human needs: attachment, bonding, intimacy, love, sex. There's no other institution that can make comprehensive provision for all of this."

So why is the institution crumbling? Dr Dominian blames women's lib for blurring the traditional duties of man as breadwinner and woman as housewife. "Once marriage was a contract of social roles. Now we expect much greater emotional and sexual fulfilment. We want egalitarian, loving relationships, and this is not in itself a bad thing. We just don't know how to develop it."

Modern couples try and fail to sustain the passionate intensity that fuelled the early days of their relationship. This, according to Dr Dominian, is a mistake — they should instead be looking at a "companionate" model of marriage, in which commitment and intimacy coexist without passion. Sex is not very important in Dr Dominian's scheme of things. "The frequency of the sexual act undoubtedly drops," he says. "What I would like to stress is the quality of each act: it's the fruit of loving."

Remembering "the fruit of loving" is at the heart of much of his advice, which, though sincere, can be irritatingly ingenuous. Take, for example, his advice on dealing with a spouse with an "anxious" (ie, possessive) personality: "You must try to be as reliable, predictable and punctual" as possible, and there is "little point" in "all that becoming excessively involved with another person".

Dr Dominian's intention is that we should be taught such marital advice "at personal relationship educational programmes" in schools. "We take a lot of trouble learning to drive a car. We have to take a lot of trouble learning about contemporary marriage. We have to take it much more seriously and learn that when problems come we will have to work at them."

His blueprint for a happy marriage is to have similar backgrounds, education and interests. He and Edith met at a conference for Catholic students and he is at pains to remind me that she, too, is a graduate. "She worked for us a little bit at the beginning," he says, "but now she works mainly at home."

All Dr Dominian's research is very commendable, but aren't his conclusions a bit idealistic? He thinks not. "People are not promiscuous. We are shaped for love from the moment we are born. We want to recapture that bond with our mother from the cradle to the grave."

You're an optimist, aren't you, I say. "Yes," he replies. "Yes, I am," and his face, which has so far been emotionless, lights up with the sweetest of smiles.

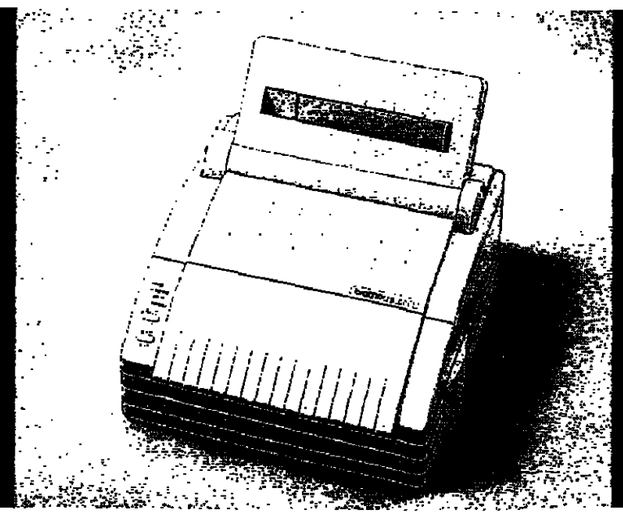
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JOAN WALKER



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In 1993, Andrew and Patricia Davidson placed an advertisement for Kingshill, their newly formed mail-order company in *Harpers & Queen*. Within two weeks the couple were inundated with 5,000 replies from women all over Britain requesting their catalogue which promised designer fashion by post. "We wanted to offer something special by mail order," Mrs Davidson says. "Brand label designer clothes were never previously available in such a way."

What began with just three designers — Caroline Charles, Amanda Wakeley and Paul Costelloe were the first to sign up for the venture — has grown apace. There are now two catalogues each season, *The British Designer Collections* and *Diffusion*, which between them feature more than 30 designers.



Fashion

IAIN R. WEBB

The latest addition to the designer catalogue is Jasper Conran, who joins a formidable cross-section of British fashion talent, from John Rocha to Jean Muir, Betty Jackson to Bellville Sassoon, Shirin Cashmere to Tomasz Starzewski. The Diffusion range is equally comprehensive: Jaeger London, Benny Ong, Whistles, John Smedley, Fenn Wright & Manson, and Ally Capellino Hearts of Oak are among those included. Even though the individual styles of the featured designers may appear disparate, the Davidsons have chosen looks from each, which not only complement each other, but together cover every possible wardrobe panic.

In the Designer catalogue, Amanda Wakeley's gorgeous separates are perfect for indulgent weekends, as are Shirin Cashmere's slinky knits. John Rocha, Joseph and Betty Jackson provide easy looks with a fashion accent, while Caroline Charles, Jean Muir, Roland Klein and Paul Costelloe offer their own brand of sophisticated classics. English Eccentrics and Georgina von Etzdorf are famous for their plush, printed fabrics. Kingshill has everything from the outdoorsy style of Mulberry to the unabashed glamour of Bellville Sassoon.

Originally Mrs Davidson approached the designers to create outfits especially for the mail order market, but soon realised that her clientele appreciated the real thing. "We now sell 100 per cent main collections," she says.

Not surprisingly, these clothes do not come cheap. Yet the obvious success of Kingshill undoubtedly proves that the mail-order business is not purely the province of the bargain hunter.

"We offer what is good in fashion, straight from catwalk to catalogue," Mrs Davidson says.

However, whereas buying a T-shirt or pair of stretch leggings by mail is painless, the idea of ordering a Sassoon ballgown, a sleek Paddy Campbell suit or a Ben de Lisi cocktail dress does appear more complex. "There are women who know they are a Jean Muir size ten, while others will try three or four designers and then just return what isn't right," Mrs Davidson says. "We have a remarkably low number of returns when you consider what they're spending."

Roland Klein says that women should be kind to themselves by being honest about their size when it comes to ordering. "Everyone wishes they were slimmer, but it's best to order the true size. It is better to buy a size larger and have it altered than to squeeze into a size smaller. The clothes do have to be fairly simple and straightforward."

Ben de Lisi agrees. "My clothes sell well from the catalogue because they are devoid of superfluous detail. What you see is what you get."

Shopping with Kingshill, by post, telephone or fax, certainly provides a less stressful way to buy designer fashion. The upmarket stores can be forbidding places for even the most confident shopper. It is also more convenient. "By simply making a phone call you can try things on without the fear of anybody watching you do it," Mrs Davidson says.

This is an area designers are keen to explore. Owning a shop may win kudos but it has a limited appeal — relying on passing trade or regular custom, while an outfit appearing on the page can go virtually anywhere.

"We're able to show an investment piece like a jacket in three or four different styles, by as many designers, and with as many ways of wearing it, all in the same catalogue," Mrs Davidson says. In this, the Kingshill catalogue works much like a magazine. It even introduces the new season and explains the new mood in an editorial-style foreword.

"I want to offer more information about the clothes," Mrs Davidson says. "It is difficult for women to understand fashion when they see it on the catwalk."

There is nothing confusing about Kingshill. The catalogue provides a concisely edited collection of designer looks — a catwalk full of possibilities in the comfort of your own home.

● *All clothes available from Kingshill mail order catalogue, The British Collection, £5; Diffusion Collection, £2.50; Tel: 01494 890555 or Fax: 01494 866003.*



AMANDA WAKELEY: cashmere/silk tunic, £395; pants, £273

Above: JASPER CONRAN: Short black crepe halter-neck corset-front dress, £278

Centre: BEN DE LISI: ivory crêpe tunic, £208; ivory seersucker bias-cut skirt, £169.

Photographs by LORD LICHFIELD and JOHN SWANNELL

HOTLINE

PUT SMOKING Out of Fashion is a new advertising campaign aimed at those in the image industry. Fashion designers are giving it their support during London Fashion Week. The first two readers to reply to *The Times* Fashion Dept, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN can see for themselves Helen Storey's interpretation of the campaign, with two tickets to her show at 8.30pm on March 11.

● AMONG London shops opening this month is Prada at 44/45 Sloane Street, London SW1. A short bus ride away at 79 Elizabeth Street, London W1 is the jeweller Reema Pachachi's new shop. Known for her work with semi-precious stones and covetable pieces in silver and gold, prices are from £35 and bespoke commissions are welcomed.

● LIBERTY is confident of further success for Reynold Pearce and Andrew Fionda, whose first collection last October was highly praised. The London department store is sponsoring Pearce Fionda's autumn/winter catwalk show which will be shown next month in-store.

RACHEL COLLINS

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■ Something missing? We'll soon sketch in something suitably inept

In what I hold to be perhaps the most engaging picture ever painted by an Englishman, Mrs Andrews isn't holding anything at all. She is perched on an iron bench against which her new hubbie is possessively lolling, the fecund sweep of their smug prosperity rolling bucolically beyond, with her lapped hands clearly in the holding position, but empty.

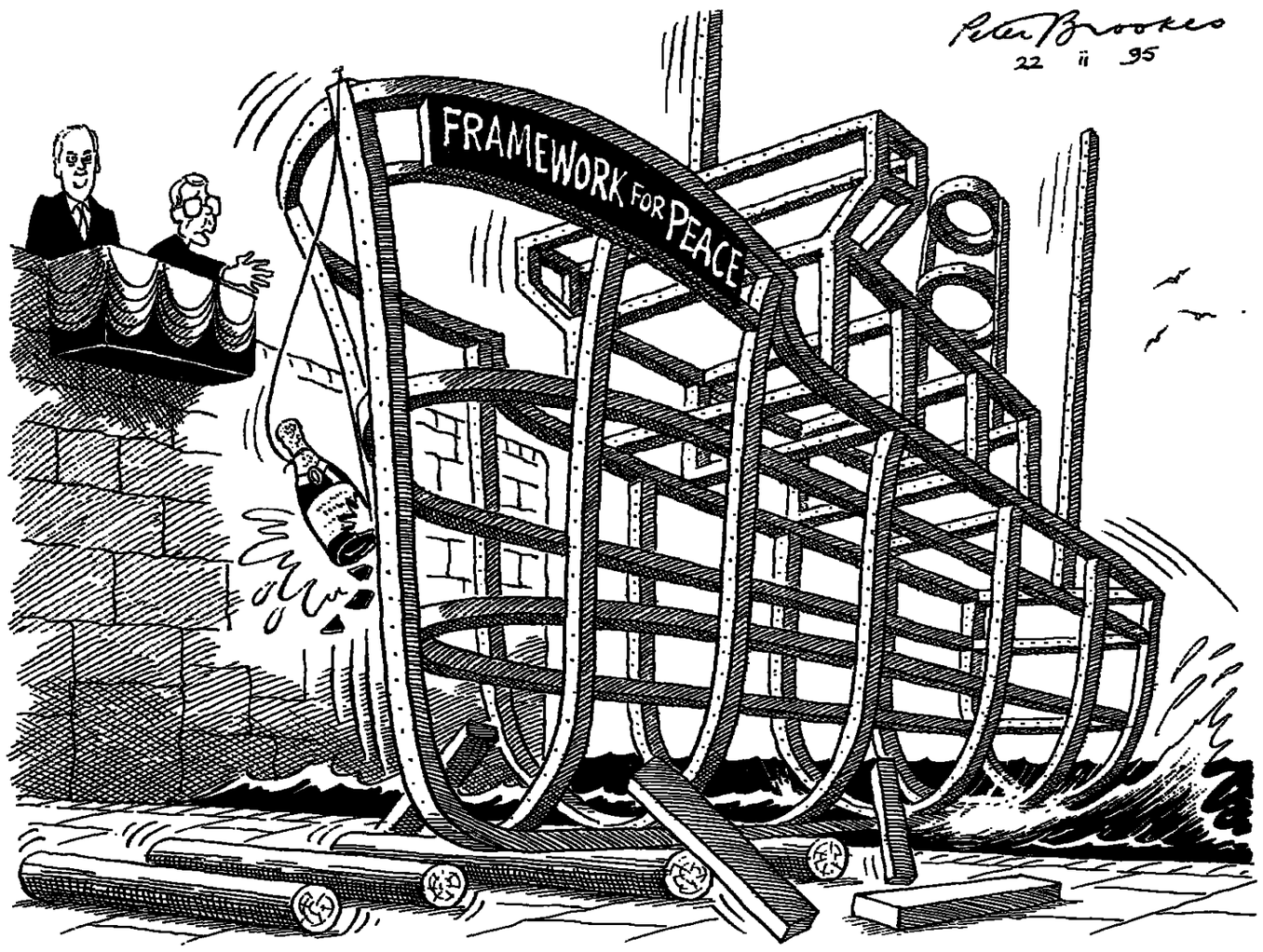
That is because Thomas Gainsborough did not finish the job, ever since when critics have been fretting over what she would have been holding if he had; but while a solid body of opinion insists that it would have been the solid body of a pheasant, this is by no means certain, and it is that very uncertainty which is so engaging. For Gainsborough was ever a sly cryptographer, and it is not impossible that Mrs Andrews might have wound up holding a bottle of gin, or a catapult, or a slide trombone, with all that these implied, and since I relish the boundless speculation that the artist, willy-nilly, has left us, you will appreciate my irritation at the thought that if the BBC got its hands on the picture, Mrs Andrews would be holding either a horse-pistol to forestall her husband's having his way with her, or a letter from a well-wisher revealing that, if push came literally to shove, he would rather have his way with the Blue Boy, anyhow. That is because the BBC has, as you know, a mission to explain.

Sunday viewers will twig that we have now fetched up at *The Buccaneers*, a novel left so unfinished by Edith Wharton as to have given the BBC no option but to fall upon it and explain it to the last squeak and gibber, thereby depriving this ham-fisted minor work of any subtlety it might have derived from being unfathomable. Furthermore, by doing what its script department is bad at, the BBC has subverted what its costume department is good at. *The Buccaneers* is about soft furnishings: it is about the soft furnishings you find in big houses and the even softer furnishings you find on big women, and the proper pleasure to be derived from the farrago is vested exclusively in these: the last distraction any of us needs is a spatchcock plot so convoluted as to leave the brain rolling around in the head like a marble in a soup-plate.

Unless, of course, we were encouraged to convolute things for ourselves. I see that you are there before me, but were you also there before me when we first heard that the BBC was to bring an unfinished Edith Wharton novel to the screen, especially as neither of us knew, admit it, quite how unfinished it might be? Did you, that is, cry out: "Wow! At last, a major breakthrough, they are doing an unfinished costume serial, ace, brilliant, it is not like *Chuzzlewit*, it is not like *Middlemarch*, we shall not have to sit there week after worthy week while an overfamiliar narrative plods to its known end, affording only such scant fillips as the anachronistic glimpse of a Yale scutcheon or a capped incisor, we shall instead become a part of the unfinished whole, we shall be plunged into the interactive hurly-burly, we shall be left to imagine, to speculate, to work things out for ourselves, to argue with our loved ones and workmates and dinner guests, we shall be encouraged to interfere in a classic work in order to create our own, we shall all be Tom Stoppards!"?

I know that that is what I cried out, which is why I am so bitterly disappointed that the BBC should have thrown so golden an opportunity so wantonly away. Not only would the enterprise have been enormous fun in itself, it would have generated innumerable collateral rewards to the hard-pressed Beeb: think, if nothing else, of the myriad captivating sequels a nationwide viewers' big cash prizes competition might have brought, particularly if the entrants were required to conform to the ideological recommendations of the Programme Strategy Review, oh, look, Lizzie has married Rab C. Nesbitt, Sir Helmsley Thwaite has run off with Lenny Henry, the Dowager Duchess of Trevenick is leading a march of differently-abled Grouse Rights activists on Castle Howard . . .

It is not too late. If the BBC would only chuck away the remaining two episodes and leave it to us, its flagging fortunes might yet be restored.



Squaring Ulster's circle

So far, the Northern Ireland gamble is paying off despite the odds — but Major should trust to local government

Simon Jenkins

I was wrong in December 1993 about John Major's Ulster initiative. He has achieved more in a year of patient but intensive diplomacy than any of his predecessors in a quarter of a century. The gambit of enticing the IRA into a ceasefire, without inducing an upsurge in Unionist violence, has worked for longer than anyone expected. The entrapment of Dublin politicians in the Ulster morass has been achieved. All who dismissed the 1993 Downing Street declaration as the work of naïve ingenues must eat at least some of their words. Mr Major may be an ingenue, but he has given Ulster a taste of peace, a glimpse of what could be. He deserves congratulation.

That was not "the easy part": it was difficult. But it was nothing like as difficult as what happens now. Today's publication of the framework document and devolution plan for the Province reopens the question that has lain on the table at Stormont since 1972. How can you marry Catholic aspirations to Unionist insecurities? The document, for all its razzle, is merely yet another consultation proposal, the latest of dozens of such proposals. The circle is not squared. True there is a nip of peace in the air: the two sides have played football in no man's land for a year. But who can tell when or whether they will return to their trenches?

The question for the sceptics of '93 is whether to tear up their gloomy predictions and join the Downing Street cheering, or whether to stick it out, joining Conor Cruise O'Brien at the end of the bar. On this page yesterday, Dr O'Brien invited us to have another wail. He pointed out, as he has been doing for much of his life, that there is an unbridgeable cultural divide separating Catholics from Unionists in Northern Ireland. The Catholics want some formal link with the South and have fought for it for 75 years. The Unionists want no such link and have fought against it for 75 years. You can have declarations, agreements, frameworks, even treaties: they are so much Irish mist. As for the idea of "solving Northern Ireland" by interminable negotiation between Dublin and London, says Dr O'Brien, "that can lead nowhere except to a renewal of the conflict".

I have long been a signed-up member of the O'Brien persuasion. But I feel Mr Major's actions over the past year at least give him the right to be heard. His strategy is intriguing, some would say cunning. The British Government's goal, we must never forget, is to get rid of Northern Ireland. It is to be shot of those whey-faced fanatics who sit unsmiling on the benches of the House of Commons, ghostly reminders of the days of woad, religious wars and the gremlins of the bog. It is to be rid of the killings and bombings, of the cost, of the emergency powers and security and the sickening publicity that goes with suppressing internal terrorism. If British ministers had their way, the "demographic timebomb" in Ulster would be advanced by every means. Unionists would be bribed to emigrate; birth control for Catholics would be banned.

Students of Anglo-Irish documents know the pattern well. Both the 1985 and 1993 initiatives were devoid of British "claims" to Northern Ireland. In 1985, any economic or other sovereignty was renounced. The only tie to Britain was the balloted wish of the majority of the population. (How unlike Mr Major's devotion to the union with Scotland, any injury to which would be a "catastrophe"!) By 1993, the British Government was ready to encourage Unionists to see the virtues of an "all-Ireland" future. Existing cross-border security and economic development institutions are expected to blossom into cross-border just-about-everything.

This is almost as if the IRA had stolen John Major's clothes, rather than the other way round. So a bunch of hoodlums happen to have the same policy as Her Majesty's Government? Even sinners are welcome to a good cause. Mr Major's tactic is to produce a framework document so favourable to an all-Ireland authority that the IRA will hand over its arsenals and talk amicably to Ian Paisley. Pigs have flown, and IRA discipline appears to be holding, if only because Gerry Adams has, as yet, won more than his wildest dreams. He must be threatened by jealous militants, who have little to gain from any peace in Northern Ireland, and the pickings of gangsterism to lose. But that was always Mr Major's gamble.

It is not half as tight as his gamble with the Unionists. Here Mr Major hopes that the seduction of peace will induce everyone, not least the former paramilitaries, to talk about anything rather than revert to the gun. The trick is to promise nothing that might activate a Unionist veto, to move forward by stealth, to give "North-South" every sustenance short of sovereignty. There is a cross-border executive, but under an umbrella authority to which the states donate sovereignty separately. There are tiers and vetoes and locking devices. But with no surrender of formal sovereignty there should be no cause for a Unionist veto.

And then there is Stormont, a new "administrative assembly" in which trough the Unionists will have the longest snouts. Get a devolved assembly established, says the British Government, link it with the new North-South body and the resulting organism may possibly germinate its own Irish character. The Unionists may not like to share power in this assembly with Catholics, but the alternative they would like even less: yet more consorting between London and Dublin. Meanwhile the demographic clock ticks on. Ulster is running out of Protestants.

So far so good for Mr Major's strategy. But at this point I start to shift uneasily down the bar in the direction of Dr O'Brien. Just how much of this can the Unionists stand before they start storming out? Remember, storming out is the wardance of the Ulster politician. He may or may not put up with some diluted version of the North-South framework. That framework is mostly fudge. But the assembly is real. It lies at the heart of Mr Major's Ulster settlement. It is to run the Province, on the basis of sharing power between all the parties on all its committees. The spoils are to be spread. The old days are back.

The old days were awful. Regional power-sharing is fool's gold. It has never worked at Stormont, despite being tried twice since 1972. As power-sharing will also form the basis for executive participation in the North-South bodies, the opportunities for storming out will be legion. This assembly — politicians and officials alike — is even supposed to be seeking the "harmonisation" of Irish policy on health, schools, social security, trade and industry. I cannot think of a more certain recipe for trouble.

The assembly will have a Unionist majority. This majority is bound to seek to impose its will on the one-third of the Province that has, under Westminster direct rule, begun to develop a republican character, notably Armagh, Derry and West of the Bann. Across the 26 local districts of Northern Ireland, a new political culture has grown up, ideally placed to capitalise on peace. Had the Government had the courage to delegate executive powers to these districts or to a reformed six counties plus Derry and Belfast, with no regional assembly, a different settlement might have been hatched. Cantonment has suited divided communities across Europe, in Belgium and Switzerland. But that would have meant a role for local government in Ulster, and Mr Major hates local government.

So he will try Stormont again: failed, cantankerous, meddling Stormont. This will be in addition to a North-South body, in addition to a myriad Anglo-Irish councils and London-Dublin summits, cross-border authorities and joint parliamentary gatherings. Tiny Ulster is to have government coming out of its ears. The hope is that such political overkill will render unthinkable a return to the gun and the bomb. I wonder.

Perhaps renewed conflict will be partial and spasmodic. Perhaps the new institutions will partly work, as direct rule stumbles on into another decade. These are all gambles, and if we are gambling, I would go with small-is-beautiful, with reviving Northern Ireland's tribally mixed local councils, rather than its unitary Stormont. But that is a gamble that ill suits the centralist culture of our times. So with a heavy heart, I must buy Dr O'Brien another drink.

A policy based on envy

Labour is wrong to attack a deserved bonus, says James Bartholomew

To be honest, there is no salary of which we all wholeheartedly approve except one lower than our own. That is why most of us will not particularly enjoy the thought of Lord Alexander — a man whose very name shows him to be particularly successful already — receiving a bonus of about £100,000 for his work as chairman of National Westminster Bank.

Remuneration higher than our own is thoroughly upsetting. Worse than that, it is insulting. It suggests that some other chap is more highly valued than we are ourselves. If you and I were joint dictators of Britain, we could agree that salaries higher than our own would be illegal. Perhaps punishable by some horrible torture. And frankly I would prefer it if my salary could be just that little bit higher than yours.

So I can well understand that Mr Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, is infuriated by the pay of Lord Alexander. And Mr Brown has an extra reason for being outraged: politically Mr Brown has already done well out of such anger. He has been successfully disgusted at the pay packages of water company bosses. He has been triumphantly appalled by the awesome salary of Cedric Brown, the chief executive of British Gas. And as a result of his repeated shows of revulsion he has found himself winning debates on radio and television.

In verbal combat, the defenders of capitalism have found it difficult to explain why a water company executive previously happy to work in the state sector for, say, £50,000 should become worth £150,000 after privatisation.

But in picking on the £100,000 payment to Lord Alexander, Gordon Brown has gone a bonus too far. He does not seem to have noticed that the noble lord is not employed by one of the privatised monopolies. Banking is a competitive and thoroughly difficult business. In the course of the latest recession, the major banks lost billions of pounds. They lent too freely in the good times to businesses which were not able to survive the inevitable downturn. National Westminster was one of these banks.

The survival of NatWest was never in doubt, but it did manage to suffer bad debts of £1.8 billion in a single year, 1991. It was particularly embarrassed by the troubles at Blue Arrow, and this led to the premature resignation of the previous chairman, Lord Boardman. NatWest needed someone at the top who could put it back on course. After all, there is the little matter of NatWest having millions of depositors. The safety of their money is a legitimate matter of concern.

Lord Alexander has previously been an unusually successful barrister, capable of earning sums which would make Mr Brown positively weep with envy. He has never revealed his income before he joined NatWest, but it seems most likely that he took a pay cut in order to become chairman of NatWest. And he took on much else besides the recession.

Banking has been changing in recent years faster than at any time this century. The economics of branch banking have gone awry. The costs have risen faster than the income. It has been necessary to close large numbers of branches and sack thousands of staff. There has been growing price competition from postal banking. In the high street, there has been competition from building societies. The technology of banking has been changing. NatWest is currently experimenting with television banking.

Politically, the banks have never been out of the firing line. They have been under attack for lending too freely and for not lending sufficiently, for making too much money out of small businesses and for losing too much money by lending to small businesses.

In the face of these and other difficulties, NatWest announced pre-tax profits yesterday of £1.6 billion. No one, least of all Lord Alexander, would pretend that this turnaround is all down to him. But he played a part in it. And you might think that if ever a businessman was entitled to a bonus it was in a case like this. He helped to restore the fortunes of the company to the benefit of the people who employ him: the shareholders.

If Mr Brown disapproves even of this, then what exactly is his policy on pay? Does he believe that no businessman should ever get a substantial sum of money? If so, he is attacking the heart of the whole system; if so, he does not understand that incentives, ambition and — yes — greed are what makes capitalism work.

These encourage well-directed effort. They give us reasons to be effective. And that, in a nutshell, is why we in Britain are wealthy while those who lived under the socialist regimes of Eastern Europe were poor.

Does Mr Brown dissent from this? If so, he is not a part of anything that could reasonably call itself "New Labour". Rather, he is indulging his emotions of envy, and puffing them up into a policy. I understand the emotion of envy — I dare say I feel it as strongly as Mr Brown — but envy as an anti-capitalist policy endangers the future prosperity of us all.

Trouble in store

HARRODS has another lawsuit on its hands. The Knightsbridge store, which on Monday lost sundry goods worth nearly £130,000 to bailiffs acting for a pre-prep school called the Harrodian, is being sued by a firm of estate agents.

The Harrodian's bailiffs called to collect court costs after Harrods failed in the High Court to ban the school from using its name. Now Savills, the Mayfair-based estate agent, claims it is owed £60,000 in unpaid fees by the department store. A High Court writ has been issued.

This second dispute also involves the Harrodian School, built on a 20-acre site sold by Harrods in 1993. Savills claims it found the buyer of the site, and is therefore due a fee. Harrods retorts that this is nonsense and refuses to cough up.

Savills refused to comment yesterday, but the estate agent was appointed to sell the property by Harrods in 1989. The department store says it retained Savills until April 1991, and accepted an offer for the site 20 months later, in January 1993.

Yesterday both sides were awaiting a court hearing. But I understand that Mohamed Al Fayed, Harrods' owner, is reconsidering the land agents who look after his country estates in Surrey and Scotland. Both are currently managed by Savills.

● *Madonna had wind-machine trouble at the Brit awards on Monday night. The waist-length wig she sported to such effect on stage was so blown about that she was in danger of choking on her own tresses. Only frantic hand movements saved the day.*

Hosepipe ban

LET US hope that the fire sprinklers at Dorneywood, Kenneth Clarke's official country residence, are in good working order. Buckinghamshire County Council wants to close the fire station in Burnham, the local village. Cost-cutting as a result of the Treasury's strictures is to blame.

The council meets for a final vote on the matter tomorrow, but official committees are advising that closure of the 200-year-old station is the only course. "We have a 3,500-strong petition and intend to write to the Chancellor," says parish council chairman Ken Dolan. "The service is vital." For cost-cutting Clarke too if he carries on with his cigars.

● *London's Number 12 bus route receives the award for Best Route with Conductors today from the public transport watchdog London Regional Passengers Committee. Could this have anything to do with the fact that Steven Norris, the Transport Minister, is one of the "dreadful human beings" who uses it?*

Italian job

SADDER and wiser, the Church of England's man in Sicily has left the island and vowed never to return, after a violent brush with some of those he had hoped to convert. The Rev Derek Payne, 65, had been chaplain of the Holy Cross Church in Palermo for just three weeks when, returning home after a quiet dinner in the city centre, two aspiring young Mafiosi robbed him of his wallet at gunpoint.

"I am shaken and shocked after what has happened, and will be seeing my doctor for a check-up when I get home," he says. "I will not be returning to the island ever again."

Last night Payne advised any successor to the post, which will be filled by the Church of England's diocese in Europe, to "carry no cash, and stay off the streets after twilight".

As Payne prepared to leave the island for ever, Salvatore "Toto" Riina, the alleged Mafia superboss, went on trial charged with ordering the murder in 1992 of Judge Giovanni Falcone.

Payne admits that he had little success during his short stay in converting Sicilians to the Anglican faith. "It is a bit of an uphill struggle when most are with the Mafia or else devout Roman Catholics."



On one's bike

THE PRINCE OF WALES has espoused another green issue: bicycling. Next month he will host a reception at St James's Palace to promote plans for a 5,000-mile national cyclepath network.

His Royal Highness has once or twice abandoned the Aston Martin for a bike, particularly at Sandringham and Balmoral. But it is seldom a pretty sight. Most commonly with sons in tow and slightly wobbly, he ventures out on a mountain bike which is too small. "Ungainly. Not really what you'd expect of a future king," says one retainer.

But Sustrans, the charity behind the network, is dewy-eyed, over the prospect of a bicycling monarch: "He's got a fine sense of balance."

P·H·S



Wobbly or regal?

PART OF THE PEACE

Today's Ulster document is not the only plan available

The joint framework document on Ulster's future published today by John Major and John Bruton in Belfast will end months of speculation and begin a new process of informed debate. Unionists will claim that the plan represents a step backward in the search for peace: nationalists that it is a step forward, but only the first step. Its success or failure will do much to establish the fate of the peace process.

It is important, however, that the British and Irish Governments do not overburden the document with expectation. The draft version disclosed in *The Times* earlier this month was written in the assured language of a peace treaty. It bore the stamp of officials confident that they have found a definitive formula to solve an ancient problem. This the draft most certainly did not offer. It remains to be seen whether today's final version is indeed the open-minded and consultative document that it needs to be and that the Prime Minister has promised it will be.

But the peace process now exists independently of this single set of proposals. James Molyneaux, leader of the Official Unionists, yesterday rejected the document as a "UN charter", a straitjacket which his party would never willingly don. That may be so. Unless today's proposals are radically different from the leaked draft, it is hard to see how Mr Molyneaux and his supporters can be expected to sign up to them. Yet that need not be the end of the matter.

Perhaps the most significant meeting to be held since the Downing Street declaration of December 1993 were Monday's talks between Mr Molyneaux, Ian Paisley, the leader of the Democratic Unionists, and John Hume, the leader of the nationalist SDLP. "People assume we are daggers drawn, that we never do co-operate," observed Mr Molyneaux. Patently, this assumption is wrong. The leaders of the three main constitutional parties in the North may not agree on the merits of Mr Major's approach but all are now committed to peace. They realise that they have an opportunity to resolve the historic differences of the two communities and they seem reluctant to squander it.

Most Unionists, for example, have now accepted the need for some form of power-sharing in Ulster's new administrative assembly. The Protestant community resents the idea of Dublin interfering in the affairs of the Province. But it increasingly acknowledges the need to reflect the nationalist perspective in its governance.

Only the most diehard Unionists resent the idea of flexible cross-border institutions taking their authority from the assembly to co-operate with the South in areas such as tourism. This is considerable progress. Whatever is said about today's document, the general trend towards co-operation and mutual understanding should not be underestimated. It remains highly likely that the Unionists will attend the new talks, if only to put forward their own agenda.

In *The Times* yesterday, Conor Cruise O'Brien argued wisely that "the concept of negotiations between Dublin and London leading to agreement inside Northern Ireland is flawed". Diplomats on the mainland or in the Republic cannot possibly resolve the problems that have bedevilled the North for centuries. One of the gravest errors of Anglo-Irish policy in the past ten years has been the belief that they can. This approach is now redundant. The people of Ulster are, at the very least, to have their own representative forum in which to plan their future. In this sense, today's historic document is the last gesture of the old way of doing things. It is for the citizens of Northern Ireland to decide on the new.

HOME AND ALONE

Reform of the pension rules in divorce is overdue

In the House of Lords last night, Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish, the Social Security Minister, accepted that the Government should reconsider the rights of divorced wives to a share in their husbands' pensions. He made this undertaking after a rebellion by Conservative peers. Under present rules a married woman who has devoted most of her adult life to raising a family and running a home can too often find herself in a pauperised old age after divorce.

When a married man's job provides him with a pension, the security that it offers for his retirement also covers his wife and — in the event of his death — continues to provide for her old age. A husband's contributions to a pension scheme come out of the household income and are assumed at the time to be providing for the future of both partners. But when a couple divorce, that asset is not counted as part of their joint wealth. The income that was planned for their retirement becomes the sole property of the man.

As a consequence, many divorced women who offered years of practical and emotional support to the men with whom they shared an affluent lifestyle find themselves left with only a state pension. This is now sometimes justified on the ground that the man's pension is a fair exchange for the matrimonial home which is most often awarded to the wife. In response it is argued that a professional man's pension is often worth more than his home. The real point, however, is not whether a pension is worth more or less than the marital home, but whether the value of both should be taken into account in the apportionment of assets in a divorce, which must always be agreed or decided by the courts case by case.

In a ground-breaking judgment in 1993, the High Court ruled that the pension scheme of Douglas Brooks should be altered to make provision for his divorced wife. Mr Brooks took that decision to the Court of Appeal which upheld the ruling of the High Court. He is now carrying his fight to the House of Lords where his case will be heard later this year. If the Lords support the findings of the lower courts, a precedent will be set which will doubtless unleash thousands of similar claims.

This is an area of injustice in which the Government should take a lead. It is unfair that a woman who has committed herself to family life on the expectation that her future financial security would be provided for should have no stake in a pension scheme. Even a working wife may have had less opportunity to build up an adequate pension since her employment pattern is more likely to have been disrupted by family responsibilities. It would also be unfair, however, if settlements agreed long in the past were reopened to take account of the new attitude to pensions.

The Government may fear the kind of noisy backlash from middle-class divorced men which the Child Support Agency produced. One way to mitigate such protests would be to avoid the retrospective application of any new rules to arrangements already agreed or settled by the courts. Altering arrangements in such a sensitive area of social policy is bound to be controversial and to create some anomalies in the short term. But the aim of policy should be clear. Men should be discouraged from thinking that they can slough off financial responsibility for their first families through divorce. Any reform that makes divorce more expensive — and thus more unattractive — should be embraced by a Government which supports family life.

STUDENT POWER

There is a new player in Afghanistan's Great Game

An Islamic New Model Army — the Taleban — is now encamped on the outskirts of Kabul, poised to capture the Afghan capital from the forces of President Rabbani. These student-crusaders, who now control a third of Afghanistan, are driven both by an energetic devotion to the Koran and a revulsion for the mujahidin groups who have heaped such ruin on the people of their country. After their recent and spectacular advances, the patchwork peace plan stitched together by a despairing United Nations is now almost as tattered as the country for which it was conceived.

Afghanistan, once the Cold War's emotive theatre, has for some years been left to its own destructive devices. The variety of political and military alliances that have been made and unmade — each new one as mercurial as the last — has bewildered observers just as the carnage has done. Into this tribal charnel house — and oblivious that the country has always loathed interference — the UN has attempted from time to time to insinuate a settlement. The latest attempt, crafted by the UN's special envoy Mahmood Mestiri, appears ready for an uncer-emonious burial. It may seem churlish to criticise Mr Mestiri — who should at least earn an honourable mention for his perseverance — but the absence of the Taleban from his list of those entitled to representation on the "interim governing council" meant that the plan had no firm foundation.

Yet few could have predicted the meteoric rise of this army of students. Although the disparate mujahidin groups seem prepared to accept, with the advance of the Taleban, the UN's power-sharing compromise, these groups now have considerably less power to share. The Koranic legions, not surprisingly, are bent on denying any political oxygen to the groups which they regard as "criminal", "locusts", "unIslamic" and "degenerate" — to use but a few epithets employed by their articulate spokesman, Mullah Boorjan.

Mr Mestiri held talks with the leaders of the Taleban (few of whom are readily identifiable) in an attempt to sign them up for the new council in Kabul. As preconditions, the special envoy's interlocutors demanded control of the capital for their forces, an Islamic government and a restriction of seats on the council to "good Muslims". This last demand is tantamount to a rhetorical rebuff: the Taleban crusade against Mr Rabbani's Government and every other group in the country is predicated on the belief that the land needs to be cleansed afresh for the return of a pure Islam.

However unappealing the Taleban — and the prospect of a state run by students of Islamic theology — may be to the West, it is now entirely appropriate for the UN to abandon its present, and obsolete, peace plan for Afghanistan. Just as it is important for the UN to know when to intervene in a civil war, so too is it important for the organisation to know when to retreat. The UN can do nothing, at present, for Kabul.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Jobs growth and a minimum wage

From Mr Denis MacShane, MP for Rotherham (Labour)

Sir, The junior employment minister, Phillip Oppenheim, asserts that a minimum wage has a negative effect on the economies of other countries (letter, February 16). He is wrong. Between 1980 and 1990, nine countries with a statutory minimum wage had a higher rate of growth in employment, according to the OECD, than the UK: the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia, Spain, Greece, The Netherlands, Luxembourg and Portugal.

Between 1979 and 1993 annual economic growth in the UK was on average 1.7 per cent. This is slower than any other Group of Seven or EU country with a legal minimum wage. Mr Oppenheim refers to the very low level of the United States minimum wage; yet that wage, of £3 an hour (which President Clinton has just proposed raising), would be of very great benefit in my constituency of Rotherham, where wages of £2 an hour are common.

Mr Oppenheim, in a parliamentary answer to me last December, revealed that one manual worker in six earns £150 per week or less and one woman in four in manual jobs has gross pay of under £132 a week. These are the new working poor. Taxpayers have to subsidise the employers of the working poor by way of the benefits system. Quite how a massive taxpayers' subsidy paid by the State to low-pay firms squares with Conservative economic theory which opposes state hand-outs to companies is for Tory ministers to answer.

The case for a minimum wage was put forward by Winston Churchill in 1909, when he declared in Parliament:

It is a serious national evil that any class of His Majesty's subjects should receive less than a living wage in return for their utmost exertions ... Where you have ... no organisation, no parity of bargaining, the good employer is undercut by the bad, and the bad employer is undercut by the worst; ... where those conditions prevail you have not a condition of progress, but a condition of progressive degeneration.

Today we are a long way from such "One Nation" values, and it is to be doubted that the contemporary Conservative Party is capable of ever returning to them. But in their efforts to drive more and more working people into poverty employment ministers should not misquote international data, most of which show that forms of minimum wage systems coexist with higher employment and economic growth than the UK has managed on average since 1979.

Yours truly,
DENIS MacSHANE,
House of Commons.
February 16.

Worthwhile work to stop offending

From Mr Alan Taylor

Sir, Your leading article (February 15) on the Employment Policy Institute's report on unemployment and crime says that the Home Office would disagree with Dr John Wells's central claim that crime levels can be linked to the state of the labour market. Yet Home Office guidance to all probation services last year said:

The aim ... is to assist services in improving the employment prospects of all offenders ... Research studies emphasise that offenders can more successfully be rehabilitated and kept from further re-offending if they are helped into employment, education or job-related training.

This trust would not condone or excuse crime, and we do not argue that any groups are "predisposed" to commit crime. We simply state that measures to increase employment and reduce poverty are essential to reduce the overall level of offending. Surely the really perverse morality in modern Britain is one that deems unemployment to be a price worth paying in the control of inflation.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN TAYLOR
(Director of Policy Development),
Apex Trust, St Alphage House,
Wingate Annexe, 2 Fore Street, EC2.
February 15.

From Mr Ian Paul

Sir, "Every crime is the result of a moral decision to commit it" (your leader sub-heading) but it is also the result of a complex of moral decisions by those in power. It is almost self-evident that economic and social circumstances affect the level of crime: anyone who has lived in an urban area can tell you that. The real question is how this should be interpreted and how it should affect policy on law and order and economic strategy.

Contrary to much that is said, the Judaeo-Christian tradition does not simply privatise morality in the way that your leader suggests. The Old Testament prophets repeatedly indict the political and religious leaders for the state of the nation. Individuals are responsible for their actions, but also for the actions of others. I *am* my brother's keeper; those more likely to commit crime *are* my neighbours.

The right interpretation of the research by Dr John Wells is not that criminals are less responsible, but that those who determine policy are more responsible — along with those who elect them. Individual accountability for crime only makes sense when it is allied to a wider responsibility which many in government seem unable or unwilling to shoulder.

Yours faithfully,
IAN PAUL,
44 Kingston Road, Poole, Dorset.

From Mr David Bailey

Sir, The idea of a link between crime and unemployment goes back much further than a "century and a half". Remember that "Satan finds work for idle hands".

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BAILEY,
29 Elgin Crescent, W11.

Forgotten anguish of wartime Hull

From the Bishop of Hull

Sir, Lord Denman (letter, February 18) rightly asks us "not to forget other non-combatants who lost their lives in the tragedy" of the Second World War. Through your columns, may I draw attention to the innocent victims of indiscriminate bombing, whose tragedy has never been named.

The people of Hull to this day feel great anguish that the devastation of their city has never been recognised, either in Britain or in Europe. Proportionately it sustained more destruction than either London or Coventry. Nearly 10 per cent of the city's homes were either destroyed or seriously damaged, and only a few buildings were left standing in the centre of the city.

As well as targeting the railway, docks and industry, the warplanes would, on their return flights, discharge their remaining bombs indiscriminately over Hull, killing and maiming thousands of innocent civilians.

This has left a mark, not just on the terrain, but on the interior landscape of people's souls. Hull was never named in the news bulletins, which referred to it simply as a "town in the North East".

There is no way that the people of this European maritime city wish to detract from the commemorations of Dresden and Coventry, but the focus on the suffering of victims of indiscriminate bombing in Europe brings again to the surface the grief of this community.

As one who shares in the pastoral care of this now modern and vibrant city, may I ask the nation not to forget the people of Hull in its national remembrance this year.

Yours faithfully,
†JAMES HULLEN:,
Hullen House, Woodfield Lane,
Hessle, North Humberside.
February 20.

Asylum applications

From Mr Barry Stoyle and others

Sir, The Home Secretary, Michael Howard, has announced that additional resources, costing £37 million, are to be made available for the faster processing of asylum applications (report, February 16). Whilst we welcome any moves which will increase efficiency in the resolution of applications for asylum, we are concerned that no additional resources have been made available for representing asylum seekers.

Only limited funding is available for legal representation at asylum appeal hearings. This is channelled principally through the Refugee Legal Centre. No legal aid is available, and consequently there is an acute shortage of competent representatives.

Decisions on asylum applications can literally be a matter of life and death, and new fast-track procedures mean that asylum applicants can be removed within days. It is essential that applicants are properly represented, otherwise miscarriage of justice, with potentially fatal consequences, may occur.

A report, commissioned by the Home Office and the Lord Chancellor's Department, says that in order to increase efficient handling of asylum applications, all parts of the system must have increased resources. This must include resources for asylum applicants' representatives, through an extension of legal aid and the adequate funding of voluntary organisations, if the odds are not to be unacceptably stacked against asylum-seekers.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY STOYLE
(Director, Refugee Legal Centre),
NICHOLAS BLAKE
(Chair, Immigration Law Practitioners' Association),
RUTH BUNDEY
(Chair, Law Society Immigration Law Sub-Committee),
Refugee Legal Centre,
Sussex House,
39-45 Bermondsey Street, SE1.
February 17.

Promises in Pakistan

From Mr Francis Bennion

Sir, Having read with concern your leader , "Insult to Islam" (February 11), saying that Pakistan is now threatening all religious minorities, in line with their persecution by Islamic fundamentalists in Iran, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and elsewhere, I got out a handsome blue and gold book presented to me by the Government of Pakistan nearly 40 years ago. It was the Constitution of the new Islamic republic, which I had drafted for them in accordance with their instructions.

This 1956 Constitution said that Pakistan should be a state "wherein adequate provision should be made for the minorities freely to profess and practise their religion and develop their culture". At that time it gave a guarantee of "freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship and association." This was done

so that the people of Pakistan may prosper and attain their rightful and honoured place amongst the nations of the world and make their full contribution towards international peace and the progress and happiness of humanity.

The 1956 Constitution stated that "every citizen has the right to profess, practise and propagate any religion", and that "every religious denomination and every sect thereof has the right to establish, maintain and manage its religious institutions". It guaranteed the right to move the Supreme Court by appropriate proceedings for the enforcement of these rights.

What has gone wrong?

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS BENNION,
54a Nicodemou Mylona Street 3095,
Limassol, Cyprus.
February 13.

Getting into Oxford

From Dr G. D. W. Smith

Sir, Dr J. S. Rowett, of Brasenose College (letter, February 14), accuses me of "misplaced social engineering" for wanting to abolish the Oxford entrance examination. Oh dear! I had no idea that such a heinous crime existed.

Our colleagues in Cambridge, who effectively abolished their own examination a decade or so ago, must be mortified to discover the error of their ways. And as for the other 186 universities and colleges of higher education listed in the current UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) handbook — which either never had an entrance examination of their own or abolished it aeons ago — well, one wouldn't like even to *mention* them in polite company, would one?

The uncomfortable truth is that those responsible for "social engineering", as Dr Rowett puts it, are actually the people who for generations have set non-standard examinations at non-standard times, and thus made it extremely difficult for state school pupils to apply to Oxford.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE SMITH,
Trinity College, Oxford.
February 16.

Rain and sewers

From Mr A. E. Jones

Sir, The recent wet spell has resulted in a substantial increase in the quantities of effluent entering the combined sewerage system at my house (letter, February 21). The resultant volumes have, however, been most welcome as both domestic sewage and rainwater run-off are trickled through a series of reed beds, which in turn filter the effluent. This supplies a large pond with sparkling water and the consequence is a highly attractive wet area where fish and moorhens breed.

I advocate the use of treatment systems such as this on a larger scale. They provide a multitude of advantages in that they reduce the burden on municipal systems, generate amenity, improve landscape diversity and contribute to the fight against the loss of wetland habitat.

As well as these points, my water rates are reduced.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN JONES,
Teapond House,
Green Farm,
Littlebury Green, Essex.
February 21.

Qualifications abroad

From Sir John Hanson, Director-General of the British Council

Sir, Edward Fennell, writing in your supplement on the National Council for Vocational Qualifications (February 16), is right to point out that British qualifications are still valued across the world and to recognise the potential export value of overseas purchasers holding British qualifications. They are, as he says, already half-way to being persuaded to buy British.

These are the longer term benefits — winning friends and influence and ultimately trade for Britain. But exporting British education is not just about the future. Education and training exports currently earn Britain over £4 billion per annum.

In an agreement worth £250,000 to the UK, Mexico is developing competency-based qualifications in engineering maintenance, in manufacture and in training. Oman is another success story that proves the British system is exportable: as part of its policy to replace expatriate workers with nationals, the Government has decided to use British GNVQs in the training programme for school-leavers.

The British Council helped establish the links between these overseas governments and the UK education and training institutions. We are convinced of the export potential of British occupational standards, NVQs and their Scottish equivalents, and competencies-based training.

Yours etc,
JOHN HANSON,
Director-General,
The British Council,
10 Spring Gardens, W1.
February 16.

Word imperfect

From Baroness Thomas of Walliswood

Sir, Last Friday I received some papers covering the 1994-95 appointment exercise for lay members of industrial tribunals. The papers explain that "Each tribunal normally consists of a legally qualified Chairman* and two lay members ...". A note at the bottom of the page reads: "*The term Chairman is derived from the legislation governing the tribunals; it applies equally to men and women." The papers go on to stress the importance of recruiting suitably qualified women.

It seems to me that when language is so confusing or potentially damaging that an 18-word justification is required for a single word, then that language is demonstrably out of date.

On leaving Oxford University in 1957 I considered learning to type at the Air Ministry (as it then was) because they paid their trainees. The application form required me to state "whether I had ever been a member of any fascist* party". A note at the bottom of the page read: "*For fascist read fascist or communist".

I rest my case.

Yours sincerely,
SUSAN THOMAS,
House of Lords.
February 12.

Mission accomplished

From the Chairman of the Channel Tunnel Association

Sir, Fifteen months ago we passed resolutions to wind up this association — which was founded in 1963 — when the Channel Tunnel became fully operative. We cease to exist after our final general meeting on February 23 and hope that you might print this as our thanks for all the material which you have published over the years and as our congratulations to Eurotunnel.

We leave behind the national collection of Channel Tunnel material of nearly 15,000 items, housed at Churchill College, Cambridge, and available to all serious students and researchers. Its contents go back over 150 years.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN R. TITCHENER,
Chairman,
The Channel Tunnel Association,
44 Westbourne Terrace,
Hyde Park, W2.
February 20.

Strictly classified

From Mr F. Tomlin

Sir, William Rees Mogg's article on Otto Ammon's human classification ("Society's dicey prospects", February 16) reminds me of a "classification of officers" adopted, I believe, by the Prussian General Staff.

All officers exhibit a combination of two out of four basic human characteristics: intelligent, stupid, lazy and industrious. Officers who are intelligent and industrious make excellent staff officers. Those who are intelligent and lazy are fit for the highest command, since they don't get bogged down in detail but have a clear view of the whole battlefield. Those who are stupid and lazy can be safely ignored. Those who are stupid and industrious must be identified and rooted out as soon as possible before they do irreparable damage.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK TOMLIN,
2 Ruskin Dene, Billericay, Essex.
February 16.

Wildean paradox

From Sir Donald Harrison, President, Royal Society of Medicine

Sir, The death of Oscar Wilde from complications of a middle-ear infection (Body and Mind, February 16) was particularly inopportune in view of the reputation of his father, Sir William Robert Wills Wilde, as the pre-eminent ear surgeon of his day.

Sir William is best remembered for the "Wilde" incision, used to decompress mastoid infection and thus avoid the sequelae from which his son died. Perhaps an instance of failure of a father-son relationship.

Yours sincerely,
DONALD HARRISON, President,
The Royal Society of Medicine,
1 Wimpole Street, W1.

Driven to distraction

From Mr John G. Glover

Sir, Mr A. G. Phillips (letter, February 20) queries the phrase "forward planning". Several years ago, in a local authority transport department, we had some staff tasked with defining future policy alternatives. We called them the Backward Planning Group, since everybody else knew it was never going to happen anyway.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN G. GLOVER,
3 Northcliffe Close,
Worcester Park, Surrey.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

February 21: The Queen held an Investiture at *Buckingham Palace* this morning.

Mr Carron Greig was received by The Queen upon his retirement as a *Gentleman Usher when* Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of the Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, British Health Care Association, this afternoon presented the British Health Care Awards at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness, Patron and Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this evening gave a Dinner for Founder Charter Members at Buckingham Palace.

The Lady Elton has succeded the Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in *Waiting to The Queen.*

February 21: The Princess Royal, Patron, National Association of Victim Support Schemes, this morning *attended the Conference* "the Influence of the Victims on the Criminal Justice Process" at the Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, London WC2.

Her Royal Highness afterwards attended a Luncheon given by the Spanish Ambassador in celebration of Save the Children Fund receiving The Prince of Asturias Prize at the Spanish Embassy, Belgrave Square, London SW1, and was received by the Ambassador (His Excellency Don Alberto Aza Arias).

The Countess of Lichfield was in attendance.

The Princess Royal this afternoon presented The Princess Royal Award for outstanding achievement for the *benefit of the United Kingdom dairy* industry at Buckingham Palace.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, the Home Farm Trust, later attended the launch of the Partners in Care Appeal at Kingston Guildhall, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.

Mrs Timothy Holderness-Roddam was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE:

February 21: Mrs Michael Gordon-*Lennox has succeded Dame Frances* Campbell-Preston as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

KENSINGTON PALACE

February 21: The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust, this morning received Mr Christopher Older on relinquishing the appointment of Chairman of the Trust and Mr Richard Holland on assuming the appointment.

YORK HOUSE

February 21: The Duke of Kent, Patron, the British Menswear Guild, this morning visited Murray Allan of Innerleithen Limited, the Cleikum Mill, Innerleithen, Peebleshire, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Tweeddale (Captain David Younger).

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Ballantyne's of Walkerburn Limited, Tweedvale Mill, Walkerburn, Peebleshire, Scotland.

Captain Alexander Tetley was in attendance.

The Duke of Kent, Patron, the Royal Television Society, this evening presented the Television Journalism *and Sports Awards*, the London Hilton on Park Lane, Park Lane, London W1.

Mr Nicolas Adamson was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, Chancellor, *this* morning visited the University of Leeds, Leeds, West Yorkshire.

Her Royal Highness, President, Action Research, this afternoon visited the Clarendon Wing, the General Infirmary, St George's Street, Leeds, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for West *Yorkshire (Mr John Lyles).*

The Duchess of Kent later opened the Variety Club of Great Britain Children's Day Hospital and the Lincoln Wing, St James's University Hospital, Beckett Street, Leeds, West Yorkshire.

Mrs Richard Beckett was in attendance.

Birthdays today

The Duchess of Kent celebrates her 62nd birthday today.

Mr H.A. Ashmall, Rector, Morrison's Academy, Perthshire, 56; Sir Roderick Barclay, diplomat, 86; the Hon James Bethell, racehorse trainer, 43; Mr Michael Chang, tennis player, 23; Mr J.N. Ellis, trade unionist, 56; Mr Joseph Ettedgui, fashion designer, 59; Professor Sir Brian Follett, Vice-Chancellor, Warwick University, 56; Mr Bruce Forsyth, entertainer, 67; Miss Deborah Grant, actress, 48; *Miss Sheila Hancock*, actress, 62; Miss Jocelyn Herbert, stage designer, 78; Mr Howard Hodgson, former chief executive, PFG Hodgson Kenyon International, 45; Mr Mike Hollingsworth, television executive, 49.

Sir David Jack, pharmacologist, 71; Mr Peter Jacobs, chief executive, Bupa, 52; Mr Edward Kennedy, American politician, 63; Sir John Kerr, UK Permanent Representative to the European Communities, Brussels, 53; Miss Patricia Lancaster, former Headmistress, Wycombe Abbey School, 66; Mr Niki Lauda, racing driver, 46; Miss Frances Line, controller, BBC Radio 2, 55; Mr Ian McColl, former Editor, *Daily Express*, 80; Sir John Mills, actor, producer and director, 87; Mr Tom Okker, tennis player, 51; Mr Richard Page, *MP*, 54; Sir Christopher Peterson, former High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, 77; Mr Nigel Planer, actor, 42.

Lieutenant-General the Hon Sir William Rous, 56; Sir William Slack, former Serjeant Surgeon to The Queen, 70; Mr Ian Stark, show-jumper, 41; Lord Strathclyde, 35; Dame Joan Varley, former Conservative Party agent, 75; Miss Julie Walters, actress, 45; Mr S.C. Whitbread, former chairman, Whitbread and Company, 58.

School news

Bedales School

The Governors of Bedales School have appointed Mrs Alison Willcocks to be Head of Bedales in *succession to Mr Ian Newton.*

Roedean

Roedean School is pleased to announce:

Junior Scholarships and Awards

Academic Scholarships: Ayesha Noorani, Karachi Grammar School, Pakistan; Rebecca Vaughan-Williams, Ruthin School, Clwyd; *Holly Watt, French Lycée, London*; Minor Academic Scholarships: Margot Hill-Landolt, Vinehall School, Robertsbridge; Zoe Willis, Dulwich College Preparatory School, Cranbrook; Cressida Watt, French Lycée, London; Minor Music Scholarships: Cristal Downing, Maltman's Green, Gerrards Cross; Lucy Tanat-Jones, Brighton College Junior School; Founders' Awards: Emma Lowndes, Chafyn Grove, Salisbury; Bindiya Varma, Bermuda High School.

Sixth Form Scholarships and Awards

Scholarships: Zoe Brown, History/Chemistry; Francesca Delany, French/Latin; Kirsten MacDonald Bennett, Art; Charlotte-Anne Nelson, History/Physics; Sixth Form Minor Scholarships: Helen Chan, Biology/Chemistry; Abby d'Arcy Hughes, French; Samantha Gilbert, Latin/English; Jacqueline King, English/History; Alexandra Lindsey, Design Technology; Melody Ngan, History; Georgina Owen, Spanish; Rachel Stewart, Geography/History; Mei Ling Teoh, Business/Computer Studies; Saeko Yamaguchi, Maths/Chemistry; Sixth Form Awards: Sara Lawrence, Art; Josephine Mak, Music; Sarah Ogden, German; Caroline Orlebar, Music; Nicola Rich, Design Technology.

Future Dates

Families interested in Roedean are invited to our Open Mornings on April 29 and June 10, when the new Roedean Theatre can be viewed. The Old Roedeanians' Association Summer Reunion will be held at Roedean on Sunday, April 30. Details available from the School on 0273 603181.

Memorial service

Mr Humphry Berkeley

Princess Michael of Kent was *represented by Mrs Julian* Fellowes at a memorial requiem mass for Mr Humphry Berkeley celebrated by Father Ronald *Creighton-Jobe yesterday at* Brompton Oratory, Sir Peter Tapsell, MP, read the lesson. Lord Rees-Mogg gave an address. Lord Wilson of *Rievaulx, KG*, was represented by Lady Wilson.

Among those present were:

Mr and Mrs Michael Lindsay-Watson (brother-in-law and sister), Mrs Jane Russell (sister), Mr and Mrs Nigel Foster, Hannah and Katharine Foster, The Earl of Clanwilliam, the Earl of Woolton, Lady Butler of Saffron Walden, Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, Baroness Jeger, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, OM, Lord Prior, Lady Rees-Mogg, Lord Richard, QC, Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, QC, Lord Weatherill, Baroness Williams of Crosby, Lord Merlyn-Rees, Lord Wise, *Baroness Fatkender.*

Mr and Mrs Jeremy Thorpe, Lady Hordern, Sir Malby Crofton, Sir Robert Rhodes James, Sir Robin and Lady Chichester-Clark, Lady Bayliss, Sir Dennis Walters, Sir Peregrine Worsthorne, Air Marshal Sir Alec and Lady Morris, Lady Goodhart, Mr Eric and the Hon Mrs Koops, QC, Mr and Mrs Anthony Howard, Judge Tumim, Mr and Mrs Michael Cumnings, Mr and Mrs George Nissen, Mr and Mrs J Skinner, Mr Christopher Chataway, Mr Joseph Connolly, Mr Roland Fox, Mr Denzil Freeth, Mr and Mrs J Harvey-Kelly, Mr Cyril Lace, Ms Prue Leith.

Mr Nigel Ryan, Mr Tony Speller, Mr Robert de Stacpoole, Mr and Mrs William Sievens, Mr Terry Stone, Mr Dick Taverne, QC, and Mrs Taverne, Mr and Mrs Colin Welch, Mr Tim Wapshott, Mr Maurice FitzGibbon, Mr Philip Harwood-Smart, Mr Giles Johnson, *Mr Richard Felden*, Mr Colin Harris, Mr Gerard Noel, Mr Richard Ottaway, MP, Mr J Holmes, Mrs Ursula Sedgwick, Mr Alan Watkins, Professor F M Fowler, Mr Michael Rice, Mrs Michael Wolff, Mrs *Jonathan Sumption*, Dr L Minton, Mr John Egan, Commander and Mrs Loudoun Campbell, Mr Colin Crewe, Mrs Flo Hunnex.

Mr Jim Davidson (founder life president, Sharon Allen Leukaemia Trust) with Dr Iain Hanham (chairman of trustees) and Mrs Hanham, Miss Jennifer Paterson and other members of the trust; Miss Elizabeth Finn and Mrs Maureen Barlow (Holmfields Ward, Chiswick Labour Party), Mr David Rogers (Conservative Political Centre), Mr Hugh Pierce (Howard League for Penal Reform), Mrs Myriel Davies (United Nations Association), Mr Philip Jagger (Malvernian Society), Mr Keith Ingrum (Dragon School, Oxford), Mr Anthony Grey (Edgar Wright), Mr Paul Chapman (Littlejohn Frazer), Mr Nicholas Storey (Savile Club) and Mr Griffith Vaughan Williams (Campaign for Homosexual Equality).

Lady du Cann

A *Service of Thanksgiving for the* life and work of Lady du Cann will be held in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, at noon on Wednesday, April 26. Those wishing to attend are asked to write for tickets to: The Assistant Receiver General (Protocol), Room 26, The Chapter Office, 20 Dean's Yard, Westminster Abbey, London, SW1P 3PA, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. Tickets will be posted on April 18. All are welcome.

Mrs Heddy Simpson

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Heddy Simpson will be held at St James's, Piccadilly, on Wednesday, March 8, at 6.00pm.

Professor Paul Turner

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Professor Paul *Turner*, CBE, will take place at 4pm on Monday, February 27, in the Priory Church of St Bartholomew-the-Great, West Smithfield, London, EC1.

Service luncheon

RASC and RCT

Major-General W. Bate and Lieutenant Colonel R.E. Wills were entertained at luncheon yesterday at Mark *Masons Hall, St James's*, by members of the Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Corps of Transport Officers' Luncheon Club. Brigadier D.N. Locke, chairman, presided.



The Royal Ballet's youngest principal ballerina, Darcey Bussell, after being appointed OBE by the Queen at Buckingham Palace yesterday

Weather fails to put a damper on show

BY ALAN TOOGOOD, HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

NO MATTER what the weather is doing, the Royal Horticultural Society always manages to stage impressive shows in Westminster. This month's show is no exception — despite many gardens and nurseries still being under water the hall is packed with spring bulbs and other seasonal plants.

The host of golden miniature daffodils from Broadleigh Gardens, of Bishops Hull, Somerset, certainly provides a welcome breath of spring. The new Cyclamineus hybrid from America, "Phalarope" with bright yellow trumpet and ivory swept-back petals, looks set to become popular.

Equally impressive are the bold drifts of purple and blue bulbous irises (*reticulata* cultivars) staged by Jacques Amand, of Stanmore, west London. More of these irises can be seen in the British Iris Society's early show in which Mr Berney Baughen, of Downe, Kent, has won the mini-Peckham cup for the cultivars "George" and "J. S. Dijt" (purple) and "Edward" (violet).

Camellia blooms seem to have come through the wet weather remarkably well in some gardens. Burncoose Nurseries, of Redruth, Cornwall, have staged a large range of *japonica* and *williamsii* cultivars, for which they have been awarded a gold medal. The *williamsii* cultivar "Jury's Yellow" with anemone-form light yellow and white flowers takes pride of place.

Several new *japonica* camellias from America are making their debut on the stand of James Trehane & Sons, of Hampreston, Dorset: "Lemon Drop", white *flowers with a lemon-white centre*; "Mariann" with large red anemone-form flowers, lightly scented; and "Princess Margaret", rose-*pink anemone-form flowers.*

Among the other seasonal displays is part of the National Collection of *Ranunculus ficaria* (lesser celandine), staged by Rowden Gardens, of Brentnor, Devon. It reveals a surprisingly large number of cultivars and an equally surprising variation in habit, from double-flowered cultivars such as "Flore Pleno" and "Greencourt Gold" (the flowers have a green centre), through bronze-leaved kinds including "Brazen Child", "Brambling", "Brazen Hussy" and the very dark "Coppernob", to miniature kinds and tall ones with foot-high stems, typified by *R. f. major.*

Corydalis are in vogue and a large collection has been staged by Cambridge Bulbs, of Newton, Cambridgeshire. They are diminutive perennials with distinctive spurred flowers and often ferny foliage, although the grey leaves of the yellow-flowered *Corydalis aitchisonii* are spoon-shaped.

The RHS Garden, Wisley, is showing globe bulb onions for March sowing that have been given the Award of Garden Merit in the recent trials at the garden. They all look alike (globe-shaped with golden-brown skins) except for "Unwin's Exhibition" which is more conical in shape. Unlike the others, it is primarily an exhibition cultivar and does not store well.

In the display of botanical art the following artists have been awarded gold medals: Claire Dalby, of Camberley, Surrey (watercolour paintings of fungi); Pauline M. Dean, of Guildford, Surrey (watercolour paintings of magnolias from the RHS Garden, Wisley); Lindsay Megarity, of Charlottesville, Virginia, USA (watercolour paintings of fritillarias); Siriol Sherlock, of Michelmersh, Hampshire (watercolour paintings of passion flowers and other tropical flowering plants); and Annika Silander-Hokerberg, of Stockholm, Sweden (watercolour paintings of flowers).

The RHS ornamental plant competition is well supported, including a new class for five blooms of hellebores. The *winner here is* G. W. Goddard, of Chingford, Essex, showing a purple *orientalis* hybrid. The class for four trees or shrubs for flowers, fruits, foliage and bark has been won by Stourton House Garden, Zeals, Wiltshire, and the class for four ornamental plants by Marie-Christine Laubarede, of Drayton, *Oxfordshire.*

The show, in the New Horticultural Hall, Greycoat Street, Westminster, is open today from 10am to 5pm.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend a dinner with the Chiefs of Staff at Admiralty House at 8.00.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as President of the Central Council of Physical Recreation, will preside at a meeting of the British Sports Trust Vice Presidents, followed by a luncheon, at 13 Grosvenor Crescent at 11.15.

The Prince of Wales will open the West Mercia Constabulary Training School complex and Firearms *Training School at Hindlip Hall*, Worcester, at 10.20; will tour Lichfield Cathedral at 1.30 and view recent restoration work; as President of The Prince's Trust, will attend a meeting with business and voluntary organisations at Lichfield Cathedral Visitors' Study Centre at 3.00 to discuss the trust's project in support of the homeless in Staffordshire; and will attend evensong in the Cathedral at 3.40.

Princess Alexandra, as president, will visit the offices of the Children's Country Holidays Fund at 42/43 Lower Marsh, SE1, at 3.00; and will attend a YWCA reception at Guildhall, at 7.00.

Christening

The infant daughter of Mr and Mrs Francis Grant was christened Elizabeth Charlotte by the Right Rev Michael Henley, CB, assisted by the Rev Keith Triplow, at the *Church of St John the Baptist*, Kingston Bagpuize, on Sunday, February 19. The godparents are Mr Malcolm Hay, Mr Alexander Dundas, Miss Catriona Grant, Mrs Niall Riddell and Mrs Edmund Bennett.

Service dinner

HMS Victory

The Lord Lieutenant of Avon and *Somerset and Lady Wills attended* a dinner held last night onboard the flagship *HMS Victory*, Portsmouth. Admiral Sir Michael Layard, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, and Lady Layard were the hosts.

Dinners

Society of Knights of the Round Table

Major-General Michael Walsh, Knight President of the Society of Knights of the Round Table, was the host at a Territorial Army dinner held last night at the Athenaeum.

The Institution of Chemical Engineers

The Annual Dinner of the Institution of Chemical Engineers was held last night at the Savoy Hotel. *The President, Professor* J. Garside, and Council welcomed as principal guests and speakers Sir John Cadogan, CBE, of the Office of Science and Technology, and Mr F.A. Osborn, CB, from the Department of the Environment.

Latest wills

Mr Michael George Somes, of London WC1, the Royal Ballet's *leading male dancer for many years* and a partner of Margot Fonteyn, left estate valued at £994,439 net.

Professor Douglas Charles Aitchison Bevis, of Sheffield, South Yorkshire, former Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecologist at St James's University Hospital, Leeds, left estate valued at £1,48,469 net.

He left all his scientific books and instruments to the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

Mr Richard Raymond Archer, of Colyton, Devon, left estate valued at £726,493 net.

He left £1,000 to personal legatees, £5,000 to Seaton Hospital and the residue equally between the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and Cancer Research Campaign.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.M. Browning and Miss S.G. Ferguson

The engagement is announced between Robert Mark, younger son of Mr and Mrs Robert Browning, of Hydra, Greece, and Susan Gillian, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Ferguson, of Johannesburg, South Africa.

Mr R.E. Cazenove and Miss K. Pennington

The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and *Mrs* Edward Cazenove, of Brancaster, Norfolk, and Katie, daughter of Mr Donald Pennington and the late Belinda *Pennington, of Capel St Mary*, Suffolk.

Mr R. Davies-Cooke and Miss C. Hiruta

The engagement is announced between Philip Rupert, son of Mr and Mrs David Davies-Cooke, of Barkston Gardens, London, SW5, and China, daughter of Dr and Mrs Yoshiharu Hiruta, of Ashiya, Japan.

Mr H.J.S. Denne and Miss M.L. Banerjee

The engagement is announced between Henry John Sarsfield, son of Mr and Mrs John Denne, of Pyrton, Oxfordshire, and Mary Louisa, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Arthur Banerjee, of Rainham, Kent.

Mr M.V. Johns and Miss R-V.G. Thomas

The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs L.V. Johns, of Holcombe, Somerset, and Rachel-Veronica, daughter of Captain Bruce Thomas, Royal Navy, and Mrs Thomas, of Hawkesbury Upton, Badminton.

Mr A. Thompson and Miss K. Vaisey

The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of the Rev and Mrs Tony Thompson, of South Nutfield, Surrey, and *Katharine*, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Vaisey, of Oxford.

Mr A.J. van der Graaf and Miss E. Leaf

The engagement is announced between Allard, son of Mr and Mrs A.J. van der Graaf, of Wassenaar, Holland, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Leaf, of Harrow, Middlesex.

Mr S.P.St J. Lytle and Miss L.E. Kottler

The engagement is announced between Charles, eldest son of Major General and Mrs Simon Lytle, of Abbotts Ann, Hampshire, and Lucy, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Kottler, of Little Comberton, Worcestershire.

Mr W.B. Molland and Miss C.A. Jolliffe

The engagement is announced between William, son of Mrs Sue Molland and the late Mr Bryan Molland, of *Stoodleigh, Devon*, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Jolliffe, of West Anstey, Devon.

Mr L.R.O. Skinner and Miss S.J. Walker

The engagement is announced *between Leo*, youngest son of the late Lieutenant Colonel Denzil Skinner, RTR, and of Mrs Denzil Skinner, of Cutnall Green, *Worcestershire*, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Derrick Walker, of Pewsey, Wiltshire.

Mr H.G. Waters and Miss C.L. Chilton

The engagement is announced between Harry, second son of General Sir John and Lady Waters, of Devon, and Candida, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs James Chilton, of Oxfordshire.

Mr S.R.S. Wilson and Miss S.A.J. Potts

The engagement is announced between Simon, eldest son of Mr and Mrs P.J. Wilson, of Wimbledon, and Sarah, younger daughter of Mr Trevor Potts, of New York, USA, and Mrs P.A.M. Potts, of Keevil, Wiltshire.

Marriage

Mr O.A. Hemsley and Miss C. Baddeley

The marriage took place at Tisbury Parish Church on February 18, 1995, between Mr Oliver Hemsley and Miss Charlotte Baddeley.

The bride was attended by India and Grace Warman, Archie Leng and Henry Faber. Mr Edward Baring was best man.

A reception was held at Wardour Castle and the honeymoon is being spent in South America.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: George Washington, *1st American President 1789-97, Westmoreland County, Virginia*, 1732; Arthur Schopenhauer, philosopher, Gdansk, 1788; Thomas Winter, *pugilist, Witchend, near* Fownhope, Herefordshire, 1795; James Lowell, poet and diplomat, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1819; *Robert Baden-Powell, Baron Baden-Powell*, founder of the Boy Scout movement, London, 1857, (his wife Olave, World Chief *Guide, was born on this day*, Wingerworth, Derbyshire, 1889); Heinrich Hertz, physicist, Hamburg, 1857; Eric Gill, artist, sculptor *and typographer*, Brighton, 1882; Edna St Vincent Millay, poet, Rockland, Maine, 1892; Luis Bunuel, Spanish film director, *Calanda*, 1900.

DEATHS: David Bruce, David II, King of Scotland, reigned 1329-71, Edinburgh, 1371; Amerigo Vespucci, merchant and adventurer, Seville, 1512; Jean Pierre de Crousaz, philosopher, Lausanne, 1750; James Barry, painter, London, 1806; Adam Ferguson, philosopher, St Andrews, 1816; Sydney Smith, clergyman and wit, London, 1845; Sir Charles Lyell, geologist, London, 1875; Jean-Baptiste Corot, painter, Paris, 1875; Hugo Wolf, lieder composer, Vienna, 1903; Stefan Zweig, novelist, Petropolis, Brazil, 1942; Elizabeth Bowen, *novelist*, London, 1973; Oskar Kokoschka, painter, Switzerland, 1980; Andy Warhol, painter, New York, 1987.

Spain ceded Florida to the United States, 1819.

Frank Winfield Woolworth opened his first "five and ten cent" store in Utica, New York, 1879.

The Times ran the first classified personal column, 1886.

Dr Selman Abraham Waksman announced his discovery of the antibiotic streptomycin, 1946.

Appointments

Mr John Scott Wolstenholme to be a Circuit Judge, assigned to the North Eastern Circuit.

Mrs Annie Anderson is reappointed to the Council of Tribunals, for *three years from* February 13.

University news

Cambridge

Selwyn College

Elected to a Fellowship and College Lectureship in English from October 1:

Bharat Tandon.

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 0171 481 9313
FAX: 0171 782 7828

Your heard my teaching in the presence of many witnesses: hand on that teaching to reliable men who in turn will be qualified to teach other. 2 Timothy 2 : 2 (REB).

Saturday, February 4th.

BIRTHS

BARKER-HILL - On February 16th at The Portland Hospital, to Carolyn and Adam, a rare loon (a fine boy) 8lbs 4oz.

BERRY - On 13th February, to Emma (née Tracey) and Christopher, a daughter, Alice Louise Rose, a sister for Oliver.

BOUND - On 16th February in Guernsey, to Elaine (née Schofield) and Christopher, a son, Aubrey.

CRICHTON - On 16th February, to Emma, wife of Desmond, a son.

FOLZ - On February 19th 1995 at The Portland Hospital, to Roland and Melanie, a beautiful daughter, Hannah Sophia (7lbs 7oz) at 6:10 pm.

GYNGELL - On 17th February 1995, to Kate (née Crowdson) and Julian, a daughter, Sarah Elizabeth Caroline, a sister to Alasdair.

HARWOOD - On February 16th 1995, to Catherine (née Hewett) and Benjamin, a daughter, Serena Alice Elizabeth, a sister for George and Giles.

HILL - On February 17th at The Royal Free Hospital, to Shahla (née Bouer) and Stephen, a daughter, Sarah Charlotte, a sister for Hannah.

HODDER - On 20th February 1995, at Bath, Somerset, to Margaret and John, a son, *Oswald Richard John*, a brother for Edmund, Edith and Dunstan.

LEWIS - On February 20th, at Brighton Royal Sussex *Hospital, to Caroline, wife of* Paul, a son, Edward Christopher.

McGEOUGH - On 17th February 1995, to Helena (*née Pennant Jones*) and Declan, a daughter, Lily Miranda.

MONTAGUE - On 19th February 1995, to Emily (*née Balchelor*) and Robert, a daughter, Natasha Sophie.

POPE - On February 16th at The Portland Hospital, to Sophie and Martin, a daughter, Emily.

ROBINS - On February 16th, at St Richards Hospital, Chichester, to Susan (née Rountree) and David, a daughter, Charlotte Louise.

SARABY - On 19th February 1995, to Sophie and Ramiz, a daughter, Laura Marcia.

MARRIAGES

PORT-LUCHE-SMITH - On 18th February 1995 at St Barnabas Church, Epsom, Andrew Port and Susan Luche-Smith.

DEATHS

ADLAM - Norah (formerly Fidler, née Freeth) beloved mother and grandmother. Private cremation, family flowers only. Donations if desired to R.N.L.I., West Quay Road, Poole, BH15 1HZ.

AYRES - On Sunday February 12th at North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary, Robin Jonathan aged 51. Much loved son, husband, father, brother, brother-in-law and friend. Funeral Service at St Peter's Church, Rushbury, on Thursday February 23rd at 2 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary Head Injuries Unit and Rushbury Parish Church. Enquiries to A.S. Morris & Son Funeral Directors, Church Stretton, tel: (0694) 722875.

BELLOC - On February 18th, Stella (née Benson), Widow since 1941 of Captain Peter Belloc R.M., beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Requiem Mass R.C. Church of St Thomas More, Marlborough, at 11am Tuesday February 28th followed by interment at the Church of Our Lady of Consolation, West Grinstead at 3 pm.

BERHAM - On 21st February 1995, Phoebe, of Wrays, Horley, Surrey, very dearly loved wife of Peter and beloved mother and grandmother. Funeral Service at St Nicholas Parish Church, Charlwood, Surrey, on Friday 24th February 1995 at 10.30 am, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Any donations may be sent to St Catherine's *Hospice, Crawley. Enquiries* to Ballard & Shortall, tel: (0293) 820577.

BERNARD - On Monday 20th February, peacefully at *home, Joy (née Clothier)*, wife of Toby, mother of Karin, Conrad and Kate. Funeral Service at St Swithun's Church, Bathford, Bath, 2.30 pm on Monday 27th February, followed by cremation at Westerleigh at 3.30 pm. Floral tributes and enquiries to Co-operative Funeral Services, Pulteney Road, Bath, tel: (01225) 314304.

CLARKE - On February 6th 1995, peacefully, Geoffrey Hayman John - aged 86 - much loved husband of Joan and devoted father of Edward and Pippa and father-in-law of Alan and Angelina, greatly loved grandfather of Alexander, Camilla and Jonathan. The funeral has taken place. Donations, if wished, to Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, 15-19 Britten Street, London SW3 3TZ.

CONNELL - Larry, on Saturday 18th February 1995, aged 80 years, at his home in Jersey, beloved father of Michael, Jennifer and Sally, father-in-law of Anne, Brian and Charles, a devoted grandfather of Sean, Jonathan, Lisa, Simon, James, Michael, Luke and Lily. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. The funeral service will take place in Jersey on Tuesday 28th February. Flowers may be sent to H.W. Maillard & Son Ltd. Funeral Directors, 34 Great Union Road, St Helier, Jersey by noon or donations in lieu if preferred may be sent to The Injured Jockey's Fund, PO Box 9, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 8JQ. All enquiries please to H.W. Maillard & Son Ltd., tel: (0534) 37291.

CORDELL-LAVARACK - Denny, died 18th February, after a short illness, despite the valiant efforts of the staff at the Mater Hospital. Greatly missed by his family and friends. Funeral at Lorum Church, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow, Eire, on 23rd February at 3pm. Donations to St Vincent's Ward, Mater Hospital, Dublin.

COX - Reginald Arthur R.V.M., formerly of 80 *Marina, St Leonards on Sea*, passed away peacefully at Leavenheath Farm, Leavenheath, Suffolk, on Sunday 19th February 1995, aged 87. The funeral will take place at All Saints Church, Chelsworth, Suffolk, on 28th February at 2 pm, followed by private cremation. No flowers, *Donations for All Saints* Church, Chelsworth, and all enquiries may be made to W.A. Deacon Funeral Services, High Street, Lavenham, CO10 9PY, (01787 247389).

DIXON SMITH - On February 19th, peacefully at home, Dixon, aged 89 years. Loving husband of Peggy and the late Alice Winifred. Beloved father of Peter, Bill, Jane and Jonathan, dear grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service at St Mary's, Denney Church, Bocking, on Monday *27th February at 2.30 pm*. By request, family flowers only, donations if desired may be made to The Imperial Cancer Research Fund or The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution through W.C. Brown & Sons Funeral Service, Coppers, Cressing, Braintree CM7 8DQ, tel: (0376) 583264.

EVANS - On February 20th, *Irene Constance*, aged 93 years, widow of Colonel D.M. Evans M.C. Private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving Pennanthnoe Parish Church, Cornwall, on Saturday February 25th at 11 am.

FORD - (Frank) on 18th February 1995, peacefully in hospital, Frank aged 70 years of Hayfield (Derbyshire), the dearly loved husband of Doreen, loving dad of Stephen, Julian & Caroline, father-in-law of Jill and Nic, much loved grandad of Andrea, Chantelle, Georgina and Thomas and a dear brother of Mary and Charles. Service on Monday 27th February at St Matthew's Church at 12.45 pm followed by cremation. Family flowers only, donations if desired to The British Lung Foundation. All donations and enq: Jeremy Unsworth Funeral Service, 67 Church Road, New Mills, tel: (0663) 742772.

GOULD - On February 17th 1995, peacefully, Elizabeth *Mary Gould*, widow of Gerald Gould of Old Cawte Farm, Dunsford, Exeter. Funeral Service, Dunsford Parish Church, Friday February 24th at 1.15 pm followed by private cremation. No flowers, but if desired donations to RSPCA or NSPCC may be sent to Mitchell Funeral Services, *King William Street, Exeter*, EX4 6PD.

HAMBLY - On February 18th, suddenly at home in Mylor, Cornwall, Dr. Michael Trevan, loving husband of Judy, father of Patrick and Rupert and son of Trevan and Geraldine all of whom loved him dearly. Sadly missed by all his *family and many friends*. Funeral Service at St Mylor Church, Mylor Harbour, on Friday 24th February at 2.30 pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. *Enquiries* and donations in lieu of flowers c/o I.C. Honey Funeral Director, Port Isaac, Cornwall.

HORLICK - On Monday 20th February 1995, John James MacDonald in his 73rd year, peacefully at home. Adored husband of June, much loved father of Harriet, Araminta and James, Grandfather of Edward, Matilda, Toby, Jonathan, Bartholomew, Alexander, Jack and Hugo. Funeral on Friday 24th February at 3 pm, Free Church, Poolewe, Wester Ross. Family Flowers only. Donations - The Coldstream Guards Association, Wellington Barracks, SW1. 071 414 3263.

HOWELLS - On 19th February peacefully at home with her family, having borne her illness with outstanding courage and dignity, Diana Rosemary "Posy" (née Sowels). Funeral Service at Holy Trinity Church, Northwood, on Thursday 23rd February 1995 at 12 noon. Donations if desired to Michael Sobel House c/o T.A. Ellement & Son Ltd., 21 Bridge Street, Pinner, Middx.

KENNY - On February 19th 1995, peacefully at The Lister Hospital, Westminster, Hon. Alderman Laurence Amberton Kenny, aged 74. Beloved husband of Cynthia and loving father of Phillida, Martin, Brendan, Stephen and Jack. Service at St Cuthbert's Church, Philbeach Gardens, London SW5, at 2 pm on Monday 27th February 1995. Flowers to Ballard & Barker Ltd., 308 Old Brompton Road, London SW5 or donations to R.N.L.I. c/o Mrs Roberts, 51 Scarsdale Villas, London W8.

LANGHAM - On February 16th 1995, Philip John, born in Calcutta 1st September 1916 and died at Linford Park Nursing Home, Ringwood, after a long illness. The funeral service will be held at Salisbury Crematorium at 11.40 am on Friday February 24th at 1.15 pm followed by private cremation. No flowers, but if desired donations to RSPCA or NSPCC may be sent to Mitchell Funeral Services, *King William Street, Exeter*, EX4 6PD.

McQUILLIN - On 17th February, Leo Anthony M.A., of Ashford, Middlesex, for many years lecturer of Aeronautical Engineering at Queen Mary's College, London University. R.I.P. Funeral Service at St Michael's R.C. Church, Ashford, on Thursday 23rd *February 3pm. Burial to take* place at St Michael's Cemetery, Rivelin, Sheffield, on 24th February at 1.30pm.

MIDDLETON - On 19th February, peacefully, Kenneth William Bruce, in his 90th year, of Ledwell Oxon., formerly Sheriff of The Lothians and Peebles. Funeral Service at Mid-Warwickshire Crematorium, Wellesbourne, Warks., on Friday 24th February at 2pm.

MILWARD - Victor Ellis, of Alvechurch and Rugby, 14th February 1996, in Rugby, aged 81 years.

MYER - Diana Mary (née Coldicott) aged 77, at Queen Mary's House Hampstead, on 19th February, gently, after ten cruel years of Alzheimer's Disease. She was a wonderful wife to Ewart, mother to Jonathan and Rodney and grandmother. She was a loving friend to so many. Funeral in the East Chapel Golders Green Crematorium *Hoop Lane NW11 at 1.45 pm* Friday 24th February.

PATERSON - On 19th February 1995, in Cyprus, Betty Phyllis Paterson aged 83 years, widow of Ernest Minett Paterson.

PHIPPS - On 20th February 1995, after a short illness, Violet, formerly of *Westbumble*. Dorking. Funeral private. Donations for Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, may be sent to Sherlock & Sons, Trellis House, Dorking.

PRINCE - On February 20th 1995, at King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, Ruth M. Prince aged 90 years, *Widow of Norman Prince*. Funeral Service at Golders Green Crematorium on Wednesday March 1st at 12 noon. Family flowers only. If desired donations in lieu of flowers, tel: Leverton and Sons Ltd. Funeral Directors, (0171) 387-6075.

RADFORD - John Charles Victor M.B.E. on 20th February 1995, aged 68 years. Beloved brother of Pat and Eileen. Service at Reading Crematorium on Monday 27th February at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Sue Ryder Home, Nettlebed, Oxon.

ROSS - On February 17th 1995, at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, Katherine, beloved wife of Victor and great friend to many. Funeral at the *Grosvenor Chapel*, South Audley Street, W1, on Tuesday February 28th at 2pm. Flowers and enquiries to Chelsea Funeral Directors, 260B Fulham Road, SW10 9EL. (0171) 352-0008.

SHAND KYDD - Freda. On 21st February in her 86th year and after a courageous struggle. She will be sorely missed by her family and friends. Funeral at 11.30 am Friday 24th February St Giles, Cheddington. Private cremation afterwards. Family flowers only to S.R. Dillamore Ltd., 17 Old Road, Linslade, LU7 7RF. Donations to Leukaemia Research Fund, 43 Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3JJ.

SHAW - On February 20th, Geraldine Clara Gage (née Rice),

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OBITUARIES

CALDER WILLINGHAM

Calder Willingham, American novelist, playwright and screenwriter, died on February 19 in Laconia, New Hampshire, aged 72. He was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on December 22, 1922.

A WRITER of power and originality, Calder Willingham nevertheless gave his best years to the cinema where, as a scripwriter, he was associated with films like *Paths of Glory*, *One-Eyed Jacks* and *The Graduate*. As a novelist it was at one time fashionable (in this country at any rate) to bracket his name with that of J. D. Salinger. This stemmed from the superficial resemblance between his first novel, *End as a Man* (1947) and Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye* (1951), both of which dealt with the problems of adolescence in a school environment.

The comparison, which was only possible since Willingham's novel was not known in Britain for several years after its American publication, was, in any case, misleading. There could have been nothing less alike than Salinger's cuteness and control, and the sprawling power of Willingham. Sometimes his mastery of his material might be in doubt. His sagas of criminality and evil in America's Deep South were apt to contain passages which bordered on inconsequentiality. But his compassionate handling of his human material, his ability to dive down to the bottom and portray disillusionment and despair without lapsing into chic, invite comparison with a figure of the stature of Dos Passos, rather than Salinger.

It was the cinema's gain, and the American novel's far greater loss, that Willingham was drawn to writing for the screen, distinguished though his contribution to it was. Yet when the final volume of his trilogy *The Big Nickel* appeared in 1976, 25 years after the second, it could be seen that the cinema had not, as it so often does, taken away anything essential from his creative gift.

Born in the Deep South, Calder Willingham was educated at The Citadel, a South Carolina military college. *End as a Man*, based on his experiences as a cadet there, was a study of sadism among students, long before such exposés had become fashionable. Described by the novelist James T. Farrell as "a powerful, vivid presentation of existing evil", the book won critical praise. But almost as important to its commercial success was the controversy it generated.

Charges of obscenity were brought against the novel's publishers, Vanguard Press, by the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice. They were dismissed, but not before a sensational trial which garnered Willingham immense publicity. He capitalised on it by turning *End as a Man* into a Broadway play and then into a film. At that point he appeared to have joined the ranks of postwar American writers of naturalistic fiction exemplified by Norman Mailer and James Jones. He is still, by some critics, regarded as the outstanding writer of his generation.

Although he published a total of ten novels between 1947 and 1975 he was never again to repeat this initial commercial triumph. Though a fellow writer like Norman Mailer might praise him as being "a clown with the bite of a ferret", the American critical establishment largely turned its back on him.

Willingham now went to Hollywood where he began to produce screenplays for some of the outstandingly original pictures of the time. His screen credits included Stanley Kubrick's powerful depiction of cowardice, corruption and incompetence in the trenches of 1916, *Paths of Glory* (1957); Marlon Brando's still-unique western, *One-Eyed Jacks* (1961); *The Graduate* (1967), which propelled Dustin Hoffman to fame as the bemused lover of an older woman who gradually establishes his own identity; and *Little Big Man* (1970). For *The Graduate* Willingham won an Academy Award nomination.

Distinguished though his screenwriting was, it was, as he admitted, done to bring home the bacon, and the necessity of commuting from his New Hampshire home to Hollywood took a toll of his creative powers for at least a decade. More recently, however, the film *Rambling Rose* (1991) gave him a more tangible satisfaction, since it was his own screenplay, adapted from his novel of the same title which had been published in 1973. The result was an entirely felicitous script, lovingly directed by Martha Coolidge and shot by Johnny E. Jensen.

The film, an intelligently thought-out story about the impact on a Deep South family of the introduction into it of a highly-sexed and completely uninhibited 19-year-old (played by Laura Dern) as maid and general factotum, beautifully preserved the intention of Willingham's original novel with all its humorous naivety and understanding of human frailties. From it the innocent seductress of the title emerges, despite all the chaos she causes in her adoptive family — as well in the hearts of the boys and men of a small Southern town — as someone who would not willingly hurt a fly.

Calder Willingham is survived by his wife Jane, four sons and two daughters.



Dustin Hoffman (Ben Braddock) and Katharine Ross (Elaine Robinson) in *The Graduate*, 1967

MAJOR-GENERAL LIONEL HARROD

Major-General Lionel Harrod, OBE, Assistant Chief of Staff (Intelligence) SHAPE, 1976-79, died on January 18 aged 70. He was born on September 7, 1924.



ORIGINALLY an officer of the Grenadier Guards, Lionel Harrod transferred to the Welch Regiment in the middle of his career when the 3rd Battalion of the Grenadiers was disbanded in the early 1960s. Not many officers are able to change from one regiment with long and hallowed traditions to another with an equally revered history, and possessing strong Welsh national feelings as well.

Harrod's considerate and uncomplicated character neutralised his Englishness and enabled him to identify with his Welsh soldiers. He became a highly respected commanding officer of the Welch Regiment in 1966 and played a major role in the happy amalgamation of the Welch Regiment with the South Wales Borderers to form the Royal Regiment of Wales, whose Colonel he was to become in 1977.

Lionel Alexander Digby Harrod was educated at Bromsgrove School and commissioned into the Grenadiers in May 1944. His twenty years in the Guards were a mix of regimental and staff appointments. He served with them in Germany, in Palestine during the British Mandate, in the Malayan emergency and in Tripolitania.

After attending the Staff College, Camberley, in 1955, he was appointed Brigade Major of 19th Brigade of the Strategic Reserve, trained for rapid intervention operations overseas. They landed at Port Said in 1956 during Anthony Eden's Suez fiasco, and he and his brigade commander were the last two British officers to leave Egypt when the force was eventually withdrawn. He was appointed MBE in 1957 and saw further service with his brigade in Cyprus in the following year.

The year 1963 saw his transfer to the Welch Regiment and three years later he assumed command of its 1st Battalion, and spent most of his tenure in Hong Kong where serious Chinese Communist-inspired unrest was disturbing the Crown Colony. He was in his element.

Working closely with the police, he mounted a series of novel operations, during one of which he landed a company with its supporting policemen by helicopter from the aircraft carrier *Hermes* on top of a 27-storey building housing an illegal Communist printing press. The surprise double envelopment from street level and rooftop met with complete success. He was advanced to OBE in 1969.

The amalgamation with the South Wales Borderers was due to take place towards the end of his tenure in command. It was typical of his thoughtful nature to volunteer handing over eight months early so that another officer, who might otherwise have missed command, could take the battalion into the amalgamation period. However, before he handed over, he had the privilege of parading the battalion at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on the 250th anniversary of its formation there in 1719.

In 1969 he was appointed to the British Defence Staff in Washington and in 1971 became military attaché in Baghdad. He was subsequently Chief of the British Mission to the Soviet Forces in Germany, 1974-76. In 1976 he was appointed Assistant Chief of Staff (Intelligence) to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

He retired from the Army in 1979 but became its Inspector of Recruiting as a retired officer for a further ten years. This enabled him to maintain his connections with the Army which he loved.

His proudest moment in retirement was being appointed Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Wales, a post he held from 1977 to 1982. He took the greatest interest in helping to consolidate the amalgamation of the two famous Welsh regiments, which he had played so great a part in bringing about ten years earlier. He was also active in the Military Commentators' Circle, the British Atlantic Committee, Peace through Nato and the European Atlantic Group. Above all, he was a devout Christian.

He married, in 1952, Anne Priscilla Stormont Gibbs. She survives him with their son and two daughters.

SIR WALTER BULL

Sir Walter Bull, KCVO, chartered surveyor and former adviser to the Duchy of Lancaster, died on January 9 aged 92. He was born on March 17, 1902.

WALTER BULL served on the Duchy of Lancaster's six-man council for 17 years, advising on the management of its 35,000 acres whose income traditionally swells the Queen's privy purse.

He accepted the honorary appointment in 1957 after serving as president of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and was closely involved, a decade later, in the sale of the freeholds of residential property in Harrogate — following the 1967 Leasehold Reform Act. He had made his name in the City of London, however, where his knowledge of property values in the metropolis helped him to become one of the most prominent surveyors of his generation.

Walter Edward Avenon Bull was born at Walton-on-Thames. He was the son of a chartered surveyor of the same name who persisted in calling his son and daughter "Boy" and "Girl" until they were into their teens. They then rebelled and, neither caring for his or her Christian names, elected to be known as Pat and Molly. The "Pat" reflected young Walter's birth on St Patrick's Day.

He started at Gresham's School, Holt, but became ill while he was there. Because of the school's discipline and its remoteness in Norfolk, his parents then moved him to Aldenham in Hertfordshire.

On leaving school he was articled to his father's firm Walter Bull and Co in Queen Victoria Street, London, where he won the silver and gold medals for coming top in his professional examinations. After three years there, however, he left in 1924 to join another firm, George Baxter, and five years later went to work for Wootton and Sons.

He drove a London bus in the General Strike and, as a special constable at the time, was given a truncheon, which he kept as a memento. Around the same time he began to attract wider attention in his profession through a paper which he read to the RICS on the 1927 Landlord and Tenant Act.

It was on the strength of this that he made his most significant move in 1930 — to join the highly regarded City firm of Vigers. It was at Vigers, whose clients included London Transport, K Shoes and the Grosvenor Estates, that Bull made his name.



He succeeded Geoffrey Vigers as senior partner in 1942 and continued as such until 1974, after which he retired, retaining an interest in the firm as a consultant. Then in 1987, aged 85, he rejoined (as a consultant) his father's company which, after closing in the 1920s, had been revived.

He served on a wide number of committees in the RICS and at one time fought hard for the registration of surveyors, working closely with Harold Macmillan when the future Prime Minister was Minister of Housing under Churchill. Between 1952 and 1976 he was also a deputy commissioner of the War Damage Commission, adjudicating on contested claims.

During the Second World War itself, Bull had commanded a unit of air raid wardens in Putney, London. He was also a director of the City of London Building Society, a liveryman of the Merchant Taylors' Company, and at one time a member of Dorking Urban District Council. His work for the Duchy of Lancaster was recognised first by his appointment as CVO in 1964 and then by his creation as a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in 1977.

Pat Bull was a formidable negotiator with a direct, forthright style. He had a reputation for finishing every job in hand with meticulous care, writing out all his lengthy reports in copperplate longhand. He was also a celebrated after-dinner speaker with a variety of outside interests. These included music — he was a patron of Glyndebourne for many years — and motor cars. His cars included a 1930s Rolls-Royce and a succession of Jaguars.

He adored North Wales, particularly the architect-designed village of Portmeirion, and did not consider he had had a proper holiday unless he had knocked off his exhaust pipe on one mountain track or another. He would then diligently drag his young family up Snowdon.

He is survived by his wife Moira, whom he first met through the Putney Lawn Tennis Club and married in 1933, and by their son.

PROFESSOR GERARD TAYLOR



Gerard Taylor, Professor of Surgery at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, 1960-84, died on January 3 aged 74. He was born in Natal on September 22, 1920.

GERARD TAYLOR was a very special and unique man. A calm, kind and modest person of small physical stature he was nevertheless a giant as a teacher and leader. He was at the same time a technically superb surgeon.

Gerard William Taylor was brought up in Derby by parents who had a strong concern for community affairs. His father was a local councillor and an engineer by profession. Gerry Taylor left Bemrose School, Derby, with a county scholarship to read medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London. He was house surgeon in Edgware and then was commissioned into the RAMC, serving in France and Egypt.

When the war was over — conscious perhaps of his remarkable facility with his hands — he resolved to become a surgeon. From Redhill Hospital he took his FRCS and was awarded the Hallett prize. Sir James Paterson Ross, then Professor of Surgery at Bart's, heard that the highest mark of all time had just been awarded to a Bart's man. Sir James sent for Taylor whom, with some difficulty, he eventually recruited.

At the time, Bart's surgery was at the height of its reputation and poised to enter an almost legendary period. The unit launched many famous surgical careers — and Taylor was rightly recognised as having been an integral part of that process. There was universal recognition that the correct decision had been made when he succeeded Ross in the chair of surgery at Bart's in 1960.

During his tenure Bart's surgery flourished. But Taylor was also in demand for national and international events and became president of virtually every organisation with which he was associated. Strangely, however, he never stood for election to the council of the Royal College of Surgeons — the necessary stepping-stone to its presidency. Instead, he concentrated on his work at Bart's, performing the highest quality of vascular and endocrine surgery. In these years he travelled relatively little but he greatly treasured his recognition in the United States when in 1978 he was presented with the honorary fellowship of the American College of Surgeons.

In 1983 at the age of 63 he decided to devote three years "where I can do some good" as Professor of Surgery and chairman at the King Khalid University Hospital, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. There he attracted much the same admiration as he had done in London.

In his retirement Taylor helped his wife Olivia Gay, whom he had married in 1951, with running her successful pony stud. She survives him, together with their son and daughter.

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A CENTRE OF VICE

NIGHTLY SCENES IN THE WATERLOO ROAD

Inquiries made by a representative of *The Times* show that the state of things now prevailing in this district is revolting. Night after night the short stretch of road between Stamford-street and the "Old Vic" is thronged by women who are unmistakably pursuing the traffic of prostitution. Some of the most shameless of them openly accost soldiers as they walk along the street or loiter at the corners.

The writer two nights ago saw a flagrant instance of solicitation outside the doors of the Union Jack Club. A young woman, fairly well dressed, walked up to a soldier, who stood on the kerbstone aimlessly watching the traffic in and out of Waterloo Station entrance. She spoke a few words to him, and he turned away. Unabashed, she moved a few yards along the road, and made her appeal to a second soldier, who was idling away his time at the edge of the pavement. He also rejected her overtures. A little farther on, she offered herself to a third man, and again she was rebuffed. In each case, as she moved away, she flung back a taunt at the soldier. In each case the writer caught the words, uttered in rather shrill tones: "Well, what are you standing there for?" Presently, the woman was seen to accost another soldier, and this time, apparently, she found a victim, for the two remained talking for some time, and finally disappeared into one of the side streets.

In the course of a couple of hours' observation the writer witnessed several cases of verbal solicitation of soldiers by prostitutes. The whole district is so infested by prostitutes that no one could walk a hundred yards from the station in any direction without passing scores of them. But this open flaunting of vice in the main street is by no means the worst of the evils which have made the very name of Waterloo-road noisome to everyone who has any care for the good repute of London. There is ample evidence that the back streets which spread like a net between Westminster Bridge-road and Blackfriars-road are honeycombed with "house of accomodation" and shebeens.

Here is the statement made to our representative by a level-headed and experienced man, who has been giving his time lately to social work among soldiers in the neighbourhood of Waterloo:—"If you describe the Waterloo-road and the back streets as an open sewer, you will be somewhere near the truth. The state of affairs in this district is just appalling. Not a day goes by, and sometimes not many hours go by, without bringing to me some soldier who has been waylaid and robbed by the creatures who pollute this part of our London. Three nights ago, two young fellows came to me within a few minutes of each other and told me the same story, of how they had got into bad company, and, after leaving the publichouses, had gone away with women, who rifled their pockets during the night and were gone when they awoke in the morning."

ON THIS DAY

February 22 1917

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Who says Auntie is not looking after the regions? To judge by last Saturday's saturation rugby coverage from Cardiff, there can be no complaints

Bread of heaven from the BBC



BRENDA MADDOX

Radio 5 Live's first England-Wales rugby international at Cardiff Arms Park: where else would you have expected me to be last Saturday afternoon? Seated in the BBC Radio Wales commentary box, I thought of Michael Grade's story of the Welsh fan who asked Cliff Morgan: "Goin' to the match, Cliff?" The famed sportscaster replied that he was covering it for BBC Radio. Came the sympathetic response: "Pity you won't be seein' it then."

Thanks to BBC Radios Wales and 5, I was not only hearing it, but seeing it double. Fortified with earphones providing the commentary of either service, I watched the action both on a television monitor straight in front of me and, just 20 yards away, on the muddy ground itself. As *Land of My Fathers* from 50,000 Welsh throats welled up, I felt sorry for my husband, a loyal son of the Principality, seated high in the Upper North Stand opposite.

The commentary box turned out to be a row of boxes: open concrete cubicles in which pairs of various extremely well-dressed men were impassionedly describing the match to each other as if they were the only ones covering it. Within a few yards were also: the BBC's Welsh-language Radio Cymru, S4C, the Welsh Channel 4 for which the BBC provides Welsh-language sports commentary free, BBC-TV Wales and BBC-TV Network. Elsewhere were ITV, Sky Television and probably others, united in a vast effort to bring one event to a waiting world.

Does this world include women? Does this most male of all sports hold anything for the female of the species? And, on a such a Saturday, with two rugby internationals (Scotland against France, too), can the news-and-sport network Radio 5 possibly be anything other than Radio Bloke?

There were plenty of women there on Saturday, unlike the days when I first followed my husband through the turnstiles of what is properly called the National Stadium and discovered that it was easier to find a spare ticket lying on the ground than find a ladies' room. But rugby has no women presenters. Eddie Butler acknowledged the problem. A Welsh international player from 1980-84, he is now television commentator for the Welsh edition of BBC1's *Grandstand*. "They say, 'Get a woman presenter!' But it isn't enough."

What you need, Butler says, is *knowledge*. Rugby is a particularly complicated game, hard to follow. "The ball keeps disappearing under heaps of bodies." The best way to recruit more women fans, he suggests (correctly), is to offer more explanatory features and pre-match guides to the fundamentals of the game.

Butler thus answers a question that perplexed me. What is it about skilled wrestling in a scrum that qualifies a man for the art of rattling on coherently in front of a live microphone? The Arms Park last week was awash with players-turned-presenter. Obviously, it helps to be Welsh on such an occasion, accustomed to enunciating polysyllabically without hesitation. Charm helps too.

To perform on Radio 5, Barry John, the Welsh rugby immortal, arrived rosy and beaming, wearing one of those single-breasted dark blue Chesterfields to which politicians are so partial. I braved a question. "Will Wales really move to a new stadium in Bridgend?" "Not a chance, love," he said, planting a big kiss on my cheek.

Most of the commentators came prepared with sheaves of hand-written statistics and anecdotes. Still, they have to be prepared for the unexpected, as on Saturday when the Welsh forward John Davies was given the first red card in international rugby and was sent off for kicking an English player in the head. This left Wales one man short and in a state described by Barry John as "to-tal con-fu-sion".

Worse followed when there was a tactical substitution in the name of injury for a player who was not injured. "They have," said Ian Robertson, the Radio 5 chief rugby commentator, "broken the laws of international rugby. But they had to do it." (In order to save an untrained forward from possibly breaking his neck in the scrum. You see how much I learnt.)

Is perhaps all this coverage not a bit excessive for an efficiency-obsessed BBC? Yet on Saturday Radio 5, broadcasting over the whole country, had not only to follow Scotland-France and an array of football matches at the same time, it had to be strictly neutral. Radio Wales was singleminded and partisan.

BBC-TV Wales too is unashamedly nationalistic. After Wales had lost, 9-23, it promised, over an emotive collage of the Welsh flag and mud-spattered red jerseys, "Tomorrow is Another Day". The message was the latest in BBC Wales's prizewinning rugby promotions which stir up tribal passions powerful enough to make any native ready to die, let alone sing, for Wales.

From Cardiff how odd seemed the BBC's vacuous, over-designed, new document, *People and Programmes*, proclaiming that licence-payers far from London believe the BBC is out of touch with their real lives. Can anybody in Wales feel neglected by the BBC? I don't believe it.

What are papers for?

Roy Greenslade on the issues local newspapers must address

Sales of regional daily, evening, Sunday and weekly newspapers — with just a few notable exceptions — are in decline. For years the list of six-monthly circulation figures has shown more minus than plus signs.

Why are people deserting their local papers? Is this trend irreversible? Are we witnessing the end of the age of print? These are the kinds of questions regional groups and their publishers association, the Newspaper Society (NS), have long been asking.

Owners and editors, convinced that there is some magic formula to turn the tide, remain remarkably sanguine about the future. But they also often call into question their own initiatives.

The latest self-assessment has been a lengthy study into "new product development", the attempts to stimulate readers by offering extra sections or providing electronic services. The NS called in an international brand development consultancy, CLK, and its findings — presented by its chairman, Creenagh Lodge, at last week's annual NS conference — offered a fascinating insight into the problems which bedevil regional papers.

> Papers were never founded simply to make money

Ms Lodge was full of praise for the innovative executives who people all departments in newspapers. But there was, she said, no agreement across the industry, and even within newspaper groups, about why they were in business.

In other words, Britain's newspaper executives can no longer agree what newspapers are for. Are they, as journalists still argue, purveyors of news and opinion? Are they publishers of advertising material? Are they just another branch of business, like canned food, in which profit is the only spur? Do they still have a public service role? They want to serve the community, but in what way?

Ms Lodge confined herself to describing this lack of motive as a problem in terms of developing new product. But the subtext of her speech was clear: forget about the *new* product and ask yourselves what has happened to the *old* product.

It is no good spending hundreds of thousands on innovations, if the newspaper is being eroded.

That fundamental error stems, it appears to me, from the changed nature of regional and local newspaper ownership. The papers were founded by people who wanted to make a difference in their locality. It was never simply to make money.

Now the local newspaper is part of commerce, usually owned by a conglomerate which cannot buck market forces and must return ever-increasing profits. Shareholders with short-term desires place pressure on companies to perform, and those companies demand that local managers improve margins every year.

The need to make profits has inevitably meant that the burden for growing revenue has fallen on to advertising. Therefore, over time, the ratio of editorial content to advertising has become unbalanced. Too often local paid-for papers have become like frees, with advertising dictating the amount and position of editorial. People have become disillusioned by having so little to read.

I made this point as a panellist during a question-time session and there was muted applause, undoubtedly from the editorial delegates, some of whom spoke to me in whispers afterwards.

They complained about the rundown in staffing, the relatively low wages they can afford, the implausibility of trying to innovate when the paper itself is starved of resources.

One editor told me that the advertising department's decision on the placing of adverts was final, and could change at the last minute. Editorial had become the secondary matter.

Why the whispers? Editors who face what are referred to as "new realities" have to toe the line. They have lost control.

One can only hope that the subtext of Ms Lodge's address was taken to heart by delegates and that they are today bombarding the controlling companies which own the hundreds of newspapers around this country with memos.

The question is simple: what are newspapers for? But are owners prepared to provide the right answer by giving back to editorial the resources to make local papers essential reading once more?

Top of the Pops back on track

Audience figures for the celebrated TV show have grown nearly a quarter in a year. **Alexandra Frean** celebrates its revival



Brit-Award winning band Blur: celebrity guests on tomorrow's programme with a track from their album *Parklife*

TOP of the Pops, former bastion of spangly jackets, out-of-synch miming, inane pop prattle, kipper ties and flares, is enjoying a remarkable revival. In the past 12 months, the programme has been transformed from an insipid showcase for mainstream single releases and unwatchable dance bands to a varied and bold show featuring album tracks, more live performances, new acts and celebrity presenters.

Its audience has leapt by nearly a quarter to 8.4 million viewers in a year and timeshift, or video, viewing of the show has also grown from virtually nil to 300,000 people a week since January 1994.

Tomorrow night's edition of the programme features the band Blur, which swept the board at Monday's Brit Awards, not performing its latest hit single, but giving an exclusive performance of *Jubilee*, a track from its *Parklife* album. The programme will be presented by Peter Cunnah of the band D:Ream, and will also screen the world television premiere of Madonna's new video, *Bedtime Story*.

To cement the programme's revival the BBC is today launching a *Top of the Pops* magazine, aimed not at the ten to 16-year-old teenybopper market catered for by titles such as *Smash Hits*, but fans in their late teens and early twenties.

In April it is planning to release a *Top of the Pops* CD, containing original mixes of singles and album tracks recorded for the programme.

Ric Blaxill, the 32-year-old producer behind the show's revival, said that the magazine and the album would tie in with both *Top of the Pops* and with *TOTP2*, BBC 2's Saturday-night version of the programme targeted at older viewers. Blaxill said the changes were necessary to restore the programme's mainstream showbusiness appeal.



Jimmy Savile: first host in 1964

"The show had been suffocated by the rules which said that they had to play new releases and new chart entries, regardless of the quality. It had to be freed up," he said.

As well as adding more album tracks and live performances, Blaxill has commissioned a new theme tune for the programme from Vince Clarke, from the group Erasure, and rebuilt the *TOTP* set to give it a futuristic metallic look.

In some respects *Top of the Pops* can be seen as a microcosm of today's BBC, and other programmes can be expected to follow. The desire to win back a mass audience and to generate extra revenue through merchandising spin-offs are an obvious response to the political imperatives being placed on the corporation by a government keen to maintain licence-fee funding for as long as possible.

At its peak in the early Eighties, *Top of the Pops* attracted nearly 16 million viewers. But audiences declined to around five million in the early Nineties. The first programme, broadcast on New Year's Day, 1964, from a disused church in Manchester, was presented by Jimmy Savile and featured Dusty Springfield singing *I Only Want to Be with You*, the Rolling Stones with *I Wanna Be Your Man* and the Dave Clark Five singing *Glad All Over*.

The initial run was planned for only six weeks, but the programme was such a success that it was continued. During the Seventies *Top of the Pops* featured Pan's People and Legs & Co, and a band's appearance on the show could push its single several places up the charts.

The decrease in singles sales was partly responsible for the show's decline in the mid- to late-Eighties, as was the preponderance of dance records, which did not always make for exciting television.

Paul Lester, features editor of *Melody Maker* magazine, says an appearance on *Top of the Pops* still has tremendous kudos in the eyes of most rock and pop artists, partly because most of today's stars grew up watching it in the Sixties and Seventies.

"Record company people still have to go through a very embarrassing interview with the BBC in which they virtually have to beg to get their bands on the show," he said.

Jonathan Morrish, of Sony, says that as the audience for pop and rock radio stations fragmented with the launch of more and more stations, *Top of the* Pops became a consolidating force.

Despite the success of innovative popular culture programmes, such as Channel 4's *The Word*, in attracting new bands and targeting a specific audience, *Top of the Pops* is still the most important pop and rock programme for mass audiences, Morrish says.

He cites the example of MN8, whose single *I've Got a Little Something for You* owes its current place in the chart largely to two recent appearances on the show.

According to Mat Snow, editor of the music magazine *Mojo*, *Top of the Pops* is more relevant to the record industry than at any time in the past ten years. "It is only natural that a show like this has to refresh itself every few years," he said. "That's what popular culture means."

Making a name for yourself

Creating a brand name is a sophisticated business

Who would ever have thought of calling an advertising company Cordiant? Few admen, whose egos usually dictate that their name is emblazoned in gold outside their agency's front door. But then Cordiant is the new name for the old Saatchi & Saatchi group, the marketing services empire which fell out with its founders and now boasts neither a Mr Saatchi nor a Mr Saatchi.

According to the press handout, the new name expresses a new spirit characterised by accord and shared purpose. Derived from the roots "cor" or "cordia", meaning core or heart, it positions the company "at the heart of one of the world's leading communications groups". That may sound pretentious twaddle, but they had to come up with something, and to declare that the new name means nothing at all would sound even worse. Yet that's the way modern brand and corporate naming is going: marketers are realising that it's the marketing that creates meanings, not words.

The easy part of brand naming is finding something short, memorable, easy to pronounce and different. The hard and expensive part is avoiding unfortunate connotations in other languages and cultures (if the name is to cross borders) and making sure it is also registrable and protectable as a trademark.

Getting the right associations is the next step. When Ford introduced a family of cars like the Capri, Cortina and Corsair in the 1970s, they all started with the letter C to link them in one happy Ford family. And they all had a slight Mediterranean air, because this was the age when the foreign holiday was a symbol of affluence, excitement and freedom.

Likewise, Sainsbury's soft drink Gio has a get up and go, holiday, beachy feel to it, whereas it called its new cola Classic because it wanted to send the message that it is as good as anything else on the market, says Robert MacGinn, an account director at Mastername who advises the retailer on its product names.

But in the end the power of marketing makes the linguistic content of brand names almost irrelevant. Persil, Ariel and Novon tell us nothing about soaps. We accept without question that Typhoo is a tea, Anchor a butter, Apple a computer, Orange a mobile phone. If someone offered you a food product called Frog's Nose you would probably be disgusted, says Ian Wood from identity company Landor Associates. But you don't worry about eating Bird's Eye foods.

Invented names have two big advantages. They make it easier to avoid cultural misunderstandings, and they are less likely to hit legal snags. (As soon as some bright spark links a word like Apple to a computer, other bright sparks rush out and register orange, banana and avocado. "People actually make a living out of registering names so that other people have to buy them," says Dave Allen, managing director at identity consultants Sampson Tyrrell.)

Invented names like Cordiant have a fine pedigree. All over the world Kodak stands for quality film. Yet Kodak is a meaningless jumble of letters invented by company founder George Eastman on the ground that the letter K is distinctive. If he had a short word with a K both at the beginning and the end, he reasoned, it would be doubly so.

Nowadays, firms like his use sophisticated computer programmes which either employ super-thesauruses to churn out the roots and derivations of a word in scores of different languages, or which put together combinations of letters in a way that culturally bound humans find difficult. That's how Zeneca, the biotechnology spin-off from ICI, came into being. The root was zen- from zenith and the computer did the rest.

ALAN MITCHELL

Battle of two TV doctors

DANGERFIELD, BBC1's new drama starring Nigel Le Vaillant as a local GP and police surgeon, makes it comfortably into the top half of our drama ratings chart, *Alexandra Frean writes*. Although ITV still dominates the drama charts, its own doctor series, *Doctor Finlay*, scheduled against *Dangerfield*, attracted 900,000 fewer viewers.

The first episode of *The Buccaneers* on BBC1 attracted 9.2 million viewers — 200,000 more than the combined total for the initial (BBC2) and the repeat (BBC1) showings of episode one of *Martin Chuzzlewit*.

TIMES TV TOP 20: DRAMA

January 30 to February 5, 1995

	Programme	Date	Time	Channel	Producer	Genre	Aud (m) All 4+
1	Coronation Street	Mon 30	19.31	ITV	Granada Television	Soap	18.8
2	Eastenders	Thu 02	19.32	BBC1	BBC	Soap	16.4
3	Casualty	Sat 04	20.07	BBC1	BBC	Series	15.1
4	Peak Practice	Tue 31	21.01	ITV	Central Television	Serial	14.2
5	The Bill	Fri 03	20.02	ITV	Thames Television	Serial	13.1
6	Emmerdale	Thu 02	19.00	ITV	Yorkshire Television	Soap	11.4
7	Neighbours	Tue 31	17.37	BBC1	Grundy Int Operations Ltd	Soap	10.9
8	Thief Takers	Wed 01	21.02	ITV	Central Television	Play	10.9
9	Dangerfield	Fri 03	21.39	BBC1	BBC	Serial	9.7
10	Home And Away	Mon 30	18.01	ITV	Seven Network Australia	Soap	8.3
11	Buccaneers	Sun 05	21.07	BBC1	BBC	Serial	9.2
12	Pie In The Sky	Sun 05	19.29	BBC1	Witzend Productions	Series	8.9
13	Doctor Finlay	Fri 03	21.01	ITV	Scottish Television	Series	8.8
14	Ghosts	Sat 04	21.19	BBC1	BBC	Series	8.3
15	September Song	Tue 31	20.29	ITV	Granada Television	Serial	7.7
16	99-1	Thu 02	21.01	ITV	Zenith Productions	Serial	7.4
17	Brookside	Tue 31	20.31	CHA4	Brookside Productions	Soap	7.2
18	Baywatch	Sat 04	17.20	ITV	Tower 12 Productions	Series	7.1
19	The X-Files	Thu 02	21.02	BBC2	20th Century Fox	Series	6.4
20	Rik Mayall Presents . . .	Sun 05	21.45	ITV	Granada Television	Series	6.1

BARB (Broadcasters' Audience Research Board)/David Graham & Associates 0833-322829

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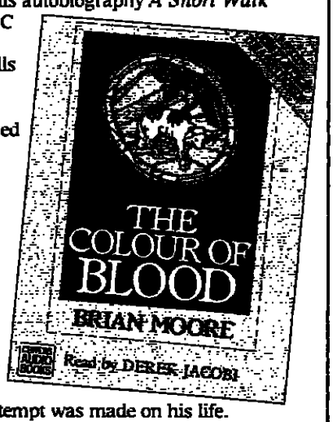
THE TIMES
Audio books for 20p



Today *The Times* offers readers the chance to buy an audio book from a range of 200 Audio Book Collection titles and get a second for the price of Britain's leading quality newspaper. The first 100 titles were listed in yesterday's paper.

All the books are complete and unabridged and give the listener the entire story, exactly as the author intended.

Among the many titles available for 20p is Dirk Bogarde reading his autobiography *A Short Walk from Harrods* (ABC 977-14.95 – 8 cassettes). Bogarde tells of his return to London after 19 years of self-imposed exile in Provence.



Derek Jacobi reads Brian Moore's *The Colour Of Blood* (ABC 343-10.95 – 4 cassettes). This is the story of Cardinal Bem, who had a vital message to deliver but had to go into hiding when an attempt was made on his life.

Mary Wesley's *An Imaginative Experience* (ABC 1067 13.95 – 6 cassettes) is read by Samuel West, who tells of a man who sees tragedy in the face of a fellow traveller.

To take advantage of this offer, collect eight of the 12 tokens which will appear over the next two weeks and complete the application form which appeared in yesterday's paper (the form will appear again next Tuesday).

When you buy one of the 200 titles on offer you will be entitled to a second audio tape containing eight tapes or less for only 20p.

THE TIMES
TOKEN 2

NEWS

Major urges Ulster to seize chance

■ John Major delivered a passionate plea to the politicians and people of Northern Ireland against allowing the chance of a permanent peace in the Province to slip away.

As he prepared to fly to Belfast for today's launch of the London-Dublin proposals for the future of Northern Ireland the Prime Minister underlined his readiness to consider alternative plans that had been put forward by the Unionist parties ..... *Pages 1, 10, 18, 19*

Oxbridge heads quit club in protest

■ The heads of Oxford and Cambridge colleges have announced their mass resignation from the historic London club that bears their name in protest at what they said was its offensive treatment of women, who are not granted full membership ..... Page 1

Unilever counts cost

Unilever has admitted that its ill-fated Persil Power washing powder had torn a £57 million hole in the group's finances after the company was forced to withdraw and reformulate it..... Pages 1, 25

Fearless pilot

Flight Lieutenant Jo Salter, the RAF's first woman pilot qualified to fly Tornado bombers, has disclosed that she never feels fear ..... Page 1

Manager dismissed

Arsenal dismissed their manager, George Graham, two days before the Premier League commission of inquiry investigating allegations of irregular payments makes its report ..... Pages 1, 48

Pension controversy

A government proposal aimed at ensuring a fairer treatment of pensions on divorce has been greeted with criticism from peers, divorced wives' groups and lawyers ..... Page 2

Mountain survivor

Cross-country skier Andrew Wilson, feared to have frozen to death after being lost for three nights in the Grampian mountains, amazed rescuers when he walked to safety ..... Page 3

Clergy job fears

Clergy in the Church of England are in open rebellion against moves to abolish their freehold, the "job for life" ..... Page 5

Victims' views sought

Victims of violent crime are to be asked for their opinions on prosecutions and the granting of bail, the Director of Public Prosecutions has announced..... Page 6

Republican hopefuls

Robert Dole has emerged as the leading Republican presidential hopeful and preferential treatment for minorities is the issue with which the party plans to split the Democrats..... Page 15

Phone tap denial

Edouard Balladur, the French Prime Minister, denied that he faced a Watergate over telephone taps and shrugged off calls for the dismissal of his political ally, Charles Pasqua ..... Page 14

Trade talks defended

Organisers of the British business delegation conducting exploratory trade talks in Baghdad have denied allegations that they were breaking United Nations sanctions against Iraq .... Page 12

Peres plea to PLO

As PLO leaders were about to meet in emergency session, Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister, appealed to its members not to suspend the troubled peace talks ..... Page 12

Peace in Old Kabul

The guns fell silent a week ago and the Old City of Kabul is seeing a rare sight once again: people..... Page 11

Mme Calment, 120, enjoys media glory

■ As photographers clustered around Jeanne Calment on her 120th birthday yesterday, she looked up with the merest trace of a smile. "At first we thought that she would be tired by all these journalists, but in fact they amuse her. She finds it all rather funny," the doctor at the retirement home in Arles, Provence, said of the world's oldest living person ..... Page 14



CHRIS HARRIS

Democratic Unionist Party officials at Westminster yesterday before their leader the Rev Ian Paisley, second right, met John Major to discuss the Ulster framework document. From left, Nigel Dodds, party secretary, Peter Robinson, deputy leader, and the Rev William McCrea. Page 1

BUSINESS

Banking: National Westminster Bank is looking for acquisitions to fill in weaknesses in its investment banking and Coutts private banking operations. Derek Wanless, the chief executive, said: "We do not rule out in-fill acquisitions if organic growth seemed uneconomic or inadequate" ..... Page 25

Borrowing: The Government has announced a reform of the system used for borrowing money on the gilt-edged market in an effort to make it cheaper, more efficient and attractive ..... Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 4.8 points to 3023.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 86.9 to 87.0 after a fall from $1.5840 to $1.5805 but a rise from DM2.3332 to DM2.3383 .... Page 28

SPORT

Cricket: Brian Lara has signed a three-year contract with Warwickshire starting in 1996. He is due to tour England with West Indies this summer ..... Page 44

Motor racing: Williams unveiled their new car for the 1995 Formula One season, in which new regulations will increase safety and parity of competition ..... Page 48

Rugby union: Wales have selected the uncapped Spencer John, 21, of Llanelli to play at right-head prop against Scotland at Murrayfield on March 4 ..... Page 43

Racing: Richard Dunwoody marked his return after a 30-day suspension with a win from his only ride at Warwick on the 13-8 Allegation in the Regency Hurdle ..... Page 45

ARTS

Director in the news: As *Natural Born Killers* finally arrives in Britain, film-maker Oliver Stone expounds his favourite themes: murder, modern morality and the art of making movies ..... Page 37

Past master: Was the Third Earl of Burlington just an accomplished amateur, or was he a virtual professional 18th-century architect? A Royal Academy exhibition aims to find out ..... Page 37

Assessing the prize: The Prix de Lausanne deserves to be much better known in Britain, considering that half of the Royal Ballet's principal dancers have been among its winners ..... Page 38

Theatrical comeback: Field Day Theatre Company is fighting back with a new *Uncle Vanya* ... Page 39

FEATURES

Franco Zeffirelli: Dalya Alberge meets the director who never married but enjoys two mistresses: opera and film ..... Page 16

Libby Purves: Women who sacrifice careers in marriage earn their half of the pension ..... Page 16

FASHION

First class: Order your haute couture by post ..... Page 17

MEDIA

Chart-riser: The ratings revival of *Top of the Pops* ..... Page 23

HOMES

Barn dance: A West Country farmer can neither find a use for his barns nor receive planning permission to convert them ..... Page 41



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ FAN THE FLAMES
Geoff Brown asks if Oliver Stone's *Natural Born Killers* is worth its publicity

■ WINNING PAGES
Read our 12-page Penguin supplement and you could win a holiday in Barbados

THE PAPERS

A United Nations-sanctioned embargo compels Iraq to give up its weapons of mass destruction and accept monitoring of its arms-making. Until Baghdad lives up to the letter of the law, it is essential to maintain those sanctions.
—The New York Times

Hong Kong's cheating husbands breathed a sigh of relief this week, when the government rejected a proposal to criminalise the territory's most elaborate form of adultery —*The Wall Street Journal*

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Carol Spencer, 52, fell in love with a Gambian half her age. *Modern Times* (BBC2, 9pm) tells their story. **Review:** Lynne Truss acclaims a revealing glimpse of life in the Jamaican ghetto ..... Page 47

OPINION

Part of the peace

Today's historic document is the last gesture of the old way of doing things. It is for the citizens of Northern Ireland to decide on the new ..... Page 18

Student power

It is now entirely appropriate for the UN to abandon its present, and obsolete, peace plan for Afghanistan ..... Page 19

Retired and alone

Men should be discouraged from thinking that they can slough off responsibility for first families through divorce ..... Page 19

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS
I was wrong in December 1993 about John Major's Ulster initiative. He has achieved more in a year of patient but intensive diplomacy than any of his predecessors in quarter of a century..... Page 19

JAMES BARTHOLOMEW
Lord Alexander helped to restore the fortunes of the company to the benefit of the people who employ him: the shareholders. If Mr Brown disapproves even of this, then what exactly is his policy on pay? ..... Page 19

PETER RIDDELL
John Major may receive more praise from historians than thanks from voters for his handling of Northern Ireland. It is one of those issues which is of enormous political importance but of little immediate significance to most people..... Page 19

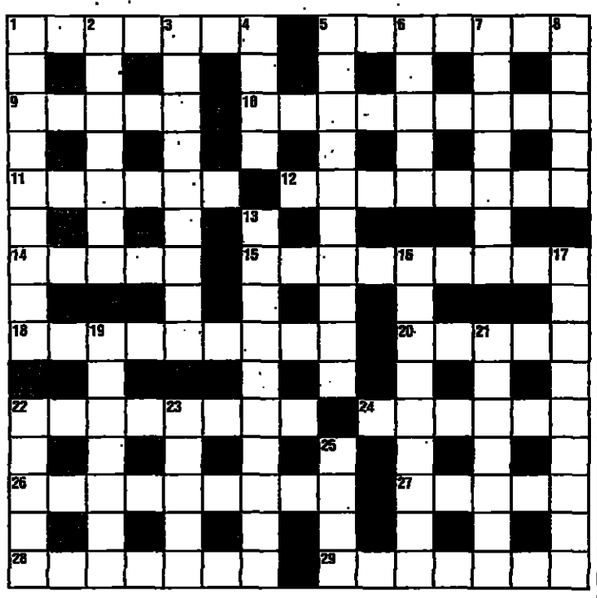
OBITUARIES

Calder Willingham, American novelist and screenwriter; **Major-General Lionel Harrod**, former Chief of Staff (Intelligence) SHAPE; **Professor Gerard Taylor**, surgeon; **Sir Walter Bull**, chartered surveyor..... Page 21

LETTERS

Link between growth and a minimum wage; unemployment and crime; wartime Hull's forgotten anguish ..... Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,785



ACROSS

1 The first person to cycle on Bournemouth's front using both feet (7)
5 Walked when demon shaver showed the way (7)
9 Clear return offered by gold import (5)
10 Elected to serve in substance in Europe perhaps (9)
11 Prompt retirement by top mathematician (6)
12 Course warning notified as anticipated (8)
14 Striking result from the Belfry? (5)
15 *Constituent of potato starter* a surprise (3-6)
18 Place arranged at court for a wealthy sort (9)
20 Head cook out of one ingredient (5)
22 Trim sail, mistakenly through faulty hearing (8)
24 Run through barrier on motorway when reversing (6)
26 Parking regulation almost broken by *Eugene, the doctor's assistant* (9)
27 Execute preliminary drawing for vessel (5)
28 "... all the perfumes of Arabia will not ——— this little hand" (*Macbeth*) (7)
29 Arrested and run in, having offended (7)

DOWN

1 Flower without carbon would be flatter (9)
2 Remedy provided by a general practitioner? (7)
3 Broadcast ordering support for divisional leader in heroic action (7-2)
4 Timer failing to open security device (4)
5 No primary colour employed by rising animal painter (10)
6 Urge to plunge into river? Quite the reverse (5)
7 Rest of story somewhat blue (3-4)
8 Old-fashioned Cockney disliked supporting daughter (5)
13 Suffer appalling danger in scene of tumult (10)
16 Beater's assistant in the forefront (9)
17 Revived when given a drink (9)
19 *Get a kick from riding gelding in* safe harness (7)
21 Game confined in it extremely lively, but put down in a clumsy way (7)
22 Cleans up *round quarter and* stalks (5)
23 Send away for instructions (5)
25 Booked performances (4)

The Times Crossword Championship, 1995: *The Eliminator Puzzle* will appear tomorrow.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

Solution to Puzzle No 19,784

S	C	A	N	D	I	N	A	V	I	A	N			
U		Z		E		O		E		N		B		V
B	L	U	E	P	E	T	E	R		G	N	O	M	E
P		R		E		M		U		R		N		
L	I	E	D	E	R		C	O	N	S	T	R	U	E
O			C			U			O		R			
T	R	A	J	A	N		S	T	O	W	A	W	A	Y
		L		T		L		H		E				
B	U	L	L	E	T	I	N		C	I	N	D	E	R
A		S			L		T				E			
B	L	O	W	H	O	L	E		B	E	D	E	W	S
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			C	L	O	T	H	E	S	H	O	R	S	E

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	707
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouces,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	708
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereids & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
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North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Monday: Highest day temp: Guernsey, Channel Islands, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Loch Glascarnoch, Highland, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway, 0.59in highest sunshine: Aberdeen, 8.5hr

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** cloud and rain, with snow over hills, will spread southeast over all parts followed by clearer weather later. Windy. Scotland will see rain clearing from the south then bright with sunny intervals and wintry showers. Mainly dry in the east.

In Northern Ireland rain will clear in the afternoon. Bright with showers, wintry on hills. Winds moderating.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, Channel Isles:** dry and bright in the morning, clouding over with rain later. Winds southwest strong to gale. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **W Midlands, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N, NE England, SW Scotland, N Ireland:** overcast and wet in the morning, heavy at times, with snow on the hills. Clearing in the afternoon. Mainly dry later. Winds occasionally severe gale southwest, moderating. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll:** rain or snow at first clearing in the morning. Bright or sunny intervals and showers later, many sheltered parts dry. *Winds becoming light southwesterly.* Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** clear or sunny intervals and wintry showers. Winds moderate southwesterly. Max 5C-7C (41F-45F).

☐ **Outlook:** bright intervals and showers. Rain becoming steady for a time then more blustery showers.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	8.5	0.24	7	45	s	Littlehmptn	0.1	0.07	10	50	r
Anglesey	0.1	0.11	9	48	sh	Liverpool	2.7	0.21	9	48	r
Aspatria	-	0.42	7	45	r	London	0.1	0.06	11	52	r
Aviemore	3.1	0.39	3	37	sn	Lowestoft	3.2	0.01	9	48	r
Belfast	1.0	0.08	7	45	sl	Manchester	0.5	0.17	9	48	sh
Birmingham	-	0.02	9	48	r	Margate	-	0.07	11	52	r
Bognor R	0.1	0.06	11	52	r	Minehead	x				
Bournem'th	-	0.30	11	52	r	Morecambe	0.3	0.20	8	46	r
Bristol	-	0.16	9	48	r	Newcastle	-	0.02	9	48	r
Buxton	0.1	0.30	7	45	sh	Newquay	-	0.13	9	48	d
Cardiff	-	0.19	9	48	r	Norwich	3.6	0.01	9	48	r
Clacton	0.2	0.12	8	46	d	Nottingham	0.1	0.07	9	48	c
Cleethorpes	x					Oxford	-	0.09	9	48	r
Colwyn Bay	0.5	0.21	9	48	r	Penzance	x				
Cromer	x					Plymouth	-	0.30	9	48	r
Doncaster	2.5	0.09	9	48	b	Poole	-	0.22	11	52	r
Dunbar	x					Prestatyn	x	0.18	11	52	r
Eastbourne	0.1	0.26	11	52	r	Ross-o-wye	-	0.01	9	48	c
Edinburgh	1.4	0.07	7	45	sl	Salcombe	x				
Eskdalemuir	-	0.59	5	41	h	Sandown	-	0.15	11	52	d
Exmouth	-	0.21	9	48	r	Saunin Snd	-	x	10	50	du
Falmouth	x	0.30	9	48	r	Scarboro'	3.8	0.04	8	46	s
Fishguard	-	0.26	9	48	r	Scilly Isles	-	0.13	9	48	r
Folkestone	0.1	0.15	10	50	r	Shanklin	-	0.24	10	50	r
Glasgow	1.4	0.26	7	45	h	Shrewsbury	2.2	0.21	10	50	r
Guernsey	-	0.07	13	55	sh	Skegness	2.5	-	9	48	s
Hastings	0.8	0.11	11	52	r	Southport	2.3	0.25	11	52	sh
Hayling I.	-	0.11	10	50	r	Southsea	-	0.15	11	52	r
Herne Bay	-	0.11	11	52	r	Stornoway	1.3	0.09	5	41	r
Hove	1.2	0.02	10	50	b	Swanage	0.1	0.26	11	52	r
Hunstanton	1.7	-	9	48	c	Teignmouth	-	0.17	10	50	r
Ilfracombe	x					Tenby	-	0.09	10	50	r
Isle of Man	0.1	0.09	8	46	r	Tiree	4.5	0.28	6	43	sh
Jersey	0.3	0.16	12	54	r	Torquay	-	0.17	10	50	sh
Kinloss	3.0	0.09	5	41	sh	Tynemouth	2.9	0.02	9	48	s
Leeds	4.4	0.20	10	50	r	Ventnor	-	0.15	10	50	r
Lerwick	3.9	0.12	6	43	sn	Weymouth	-	0.17	10	50	r
Leuchars	2.2	0.11	7	45	sh						

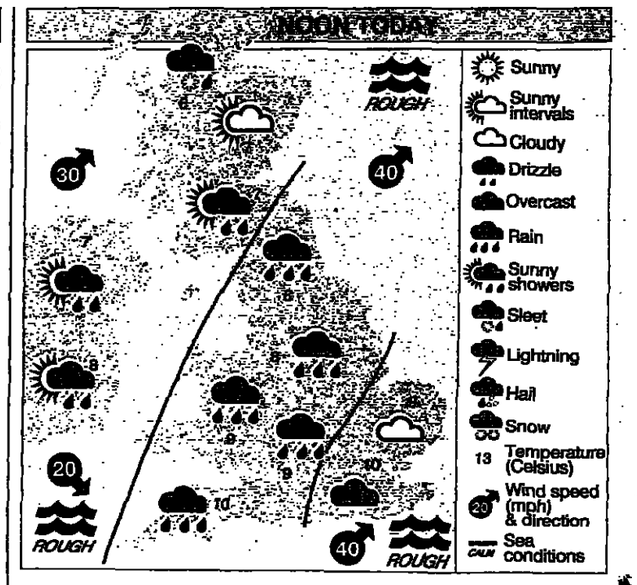
These are Monday's figures

ABROAD

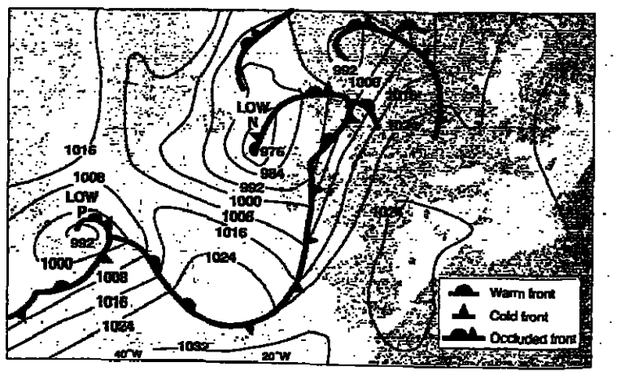
Ajaccio	15	59	s	C'phgn	5	41	d	Madrid	14	57	f	
Akrotiri	15	59	f	Corfu	16	61	s	Majorca	16	61	s	
Alex'dria	15	59	c	Dublin	5	41	s	Malaga	17	63	s	
Algiers	19	66	s	Dubrovnik	15	59	s	Malta	14	57	f	
Amst'dm	9	48	c	Faro	18	64	s	Melb'rne	27	81	s	
Athens	15	59	s	Florence	14	57	f	Mexico C	16	61	s	
Bahrain	-	--		Frankfurt	13	55	f	Miami	26	79	f	
Bangkok	32	90	s	Funchal	17	63	c	Milan	9	48	r	
Barbados	28	82	f	Geneva	10	50	c	Montreal	-4	25	s	
Barcelona	15	59	s	Gibraltar	15	59	f	Moscow	-2	28	c	
Beirut	17	63	f	Helsinki	1	34	c	Munich	17	63	s	
Belgrade	17	63	s	Hong K	14	57	f	Naples	13	55	s	
Berlin	13	55	f	Innsbruck	12	54	s	N Delhi	19	66	f	
Bermuda	23	73	f	Istanbul	9	48	s	N York	7	45	s	
Biarritz	11	52	r	Jeddah	27	81	s	Nice	14	57	s	
Borde'x	9	48	c	Jo'burg	24	75	f	Oslo	1	34	c	
Brussels	7	45	f	Karachi	24	75	c	Paris	7	45	f	
Budapst	13	55	f	L Palmas	21	70	f	Peking	5	41	f	
B Aires	33	91	s	La Tquet	9	48	f	Perth	36	97	s	
Cairo	15	59	f	Lisbon	13	55	f	Prague	14	57	s	
Cape Tn	23	73	s	Locarno	-	--		Reykjavik	1	34	sn	
Chicago	9	48	s	L Angels	26	79	s	Rhodes	15	59	s	
Ch'church	17	63	c	Luxembg	9	48	c	Rio de J	26	79	f	
Cologne	12	54	c	Luxor	25	77	s	Riyadh	30	68	s	
								Rome	15	57	s	
								Salzburg	15	59	s	
								S F'isco	14	57	s	
								Santiago	20	68	c	
								S Paulo	22	72	r	
								Seoul	6	43	s	
								Sing'por	31	88	f	
								St'kholm	2	36	c	
								Strasb'rg	17	63	s	
								Sydney	21	70	c	
								Tangier	19	66	f	
								Tel Aviv	18	64	f	
								Tenerife	19	66	c	
								Tokyo	10	50	s	
								Toronto	2	36	c	
								Tunis	20	68	s	
								Valencia	16	61	f	
								Vanc'ver	12	54	r	
								Venice	7	45	fg	
								Vienna	13	55	s	
								Warsaw	7	45	c	
								Wash'ton	13	55	c	
								Wel'ngton	19	66	c	
								Zurich	12	54	s	

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: low N will drift northeast with little change; low P will move quickly east and deepen



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	5:57	6.62	6.36	6.30	Leith	7:20	4.90	7:48	4.90
Aberdeen	6 03	3 80	6:30	3 83	Liverpool	3.30	8 60	3 54	8.42
Avonmouth	11:35	11 41	11:53	10.39	Lowestoft	1 43	2.39	2.11	2.12
Belfast	3:22	3 13	4:01	3.28	Margate	4 09	4 48	4:40	4.20
Cardiff	11:28	10 59	--	--	Milford Haven	10.46	6.10	11:16	5.82
Devonport	10:18	4.80	10 45	4 68	Newquay	9:49	6.00	10.23	5 70
Dover	3:11	6.26	3 43	5 94	Oban	10:00	3.25	10:41	3.12
Dublin	4:06	3 70	4:47	3 78	Penzance	9 12	4.84	9 46	4 66
Falmouth	9:37	4 71	10:06	4 42	Portland	11 00	1.63	11.28	1.56
Glasgow	5:29	4 18	5 45	4 45	Portsmouth	3:34	4.36	4:05	4 17
Harwich	3:58	3.75	4.32	3 51	Shoreham	3:22	5 69	3:49	5.45
Holyhead	2:37	4.93	3 08	4 85	Southampton	3:02	4 26	3:32	4 09
Hull	10.45	6 65	11 11	6 76	Swansea	10:54	8 40	11:26	8 07
Ilfracombe	10.25	8 18	10 55	7 84	Tees	8.25	4 63	8:49	4 67
King's Lynn	11:01	6 02	11.32	5 98	Wilton-on-Nze	4 03	3 94	4:39	3.71

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.02 am
Sun sets: 5.28 pm
Moon sets 10.13 am
Moon rises 1.09 am

London 5.28 pm to 7.00 am
Bristol 5.37 pm to 7.09 am
Edinburgh 5.31 pm to 7.20 am
Manchester 5.32 pm to 7.12 am
Penzance 5.52 pm to 7.19 am

Last quarter today

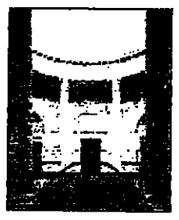
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هكذا من الأصل



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Oliver Stone: movies for an age without morality



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The difficult art of house restoration



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Brian Lara books in for extended stay at Edgbaston

BIG MOVES IN PRIVATE BANKING
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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook — WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22 1995

UK asks to join European armoured vehicle project

By Ross Tieman
Industrial Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT has asked to join a Franco-German programme to build a common new armoured personnel carrier for Europe's armies.

The request, made by Roger Freeman, the Minister of State for Procurement, at a meeting in Bonn ten days ago, is likely to provoke deep alarm among chiefs of Britain's three armoured vehicle companies and trigger an argument about the limits of European collaboration in defence procurement.

At a meeting with senior Ministry of Defence officials, industry leaders had earlier called for Britain to shun the programme, arguing that the MoD could get a more appropriate vehicle, more cheaply, through a domestic competition.

The competition to design and supply about 1,000 of the Multi-role Armoured Vehicles (MRAVs), for up to £500 million, is likely to determine which of Britain's armoured vehicle builders survives into the next century. Strong arguments in favour of a domestic competition have been advanced by Vickers, builder of the Challenger 2 tank, GKN, manufacturer of the Warrior light tank, and Alvis, which builds armoured cars.

Alvis has already cut capacity savagely. Vickers needs the contract to supply the lightly-armoured vehicle, which will act as a "battlefield taxi" when orders for Challenger 2 run out in about 2000. GKN's order book for Warrior and Piranha vehicles extends only to 1998.

However, Mr Freeman is keen to assist an "industry-led" rationalisation of Europe's defence industry into pan-national manufacturers. He is hoping to use the MRAV contest to trigger an industry shake-out, and to ease the operational difficulties of soldiers, particularly from Britain and France, who increasingly find themselves working side by side with different equipment in theatres such as Bosnia.

At the Bonn meeting with his French and German counterparts, Mr Freeman set tough conditions for Britain to join a common MRAV procurement programme. Mr Freeman told *The Times* that Britain would insist upon "an open procurement competition between two consortia". Each consortium must include a manufacturer from France, Germany and Britain.

"I think we could reach common agreement here," Mr Freeman said. He was in no doubt about the industrial impact of his proposals and said they would immediately trigger some industrial rationalisation. Industry sources say the proposal has grave drawbacks for British manufacturers.

France and Germany established a consortium charged with designing and building the vehicle last June. GIAT Industries, the state-owned builder of the Leclerc tank, has been designated France's "national champion" in guns, armoured vehicles and ammunition. It has formed a consortium with another French manufacturer, Panhard, in a supporting role. GIAT's German partners are Mercedes-Benz and Krauss-Maffei, builder of the Leopard tank.

Both France and Germany are expected to need 2,000 to 3,000 of the armoured vehicles, known in France as the VBM, with first deliveries from 1997-8. But Britain needs only 1,000 MRAVs, with deliveries starting in 2003-5. That would make it extremely difficult for a British manufacturer to secure an equal work share.

Obtaining partners for two trinational consortiums would also be tough. GIAT has been in the red for four years, losing £136 million in 1994, and is pressing for a state cash injection. RVI, part of the newly-privatised Renault car group, is its only competitor in armoured vehicles. But giving the contract to any consortium not embracing GIAT would throw state policy off course.

However, Germany is believed to share Britain's enthusiasm for a competition. MAK and Thyssen-Henschel might join forces with British manufacturers.

NatWest looks for deals after £1.6bn profit

By Patricia Tehan, Banking Correspondent

NATIONAL Westminster Bank is looking for acquisitions to fill in weaknesses in its investment banking and Coutts private banking operations.

Derek Wanless, the chief executive, said: "We do not rule out in-fill acquisitions if organic growth seemed uneconomic or inadequate."

He said: "We continue to run the ruler against the possibility of acquisitions in these markets. We cannot make sense of the numbers at this stage, but the more we build up, the greater the chance that something will emerge in the future."

Mr Wanless said that NatWest was not trying to compete with the Wall Street investment banking giants, certainly in the short to medium term. He said: "We recognise that we are not strong there." NatWest had some particular skills and would compete where it had strength, such as in treasury operations, he said.

He was speaking as NatWest unveiled a 61 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £1.59 billion, in 1994, after bad debts halved to £616 million. The profits exceeded City expectations, as did the rise in the dividend for the year, up 17 per cent to 21.6p. The final payment of 14.3p is due on May 9. Earnings per share were 80 per cent up, at 63p.

Martin Owen, chief executive of NatWest Markets, the investment banking arm, said that areas of weakness for the bank were corporate finance and funds management.

The bank would build up these areas by organic growth and "in-fill" acquisitions. Few acquisition prospects would not overlap with existing businesses, he said, but added: "We are in a market place where we are over-supplied and major players are building up."

NatWest Markets is likely this year to apply for a Section 20 licence in the US, which would enable it to acquire a US investment bank if it wished. NatWest says that it would take 12 to 18 months to get a licence, which would enable NatWest Markets to conduct a broader range of securities business in the US.

Operating income was down slightly, from £6.99 billion to £6.95 billion. Despite staff cuts, costs rose by 4.5 per cent, to £4.8 billion. This cut the trading surplus by 11 per cent, to £2.14 billion.

Staff costs rose 6 per cent to £2.76 billion despite a 4,000, or 4 per cent, cut in jobs to 87,400 at the year-end as the bank continued its branch closure and reorganisation programme and sold peripheral businesses. This was due to an £82 million profit-sharing scheme, a rise of £32 million on 1993, and a change in the mix of the "skill base" as clerical jobs are cut and customer contact jobs increased. Other costs rose from £989 million to £1.06 billion.

Mr Wanless said that 137 branches were closed, making the total 2,416. He expects a similar number to be cut each year for the next five years.

Mr Wanless said that the bank continued to invest in making existing businesses more productive. This would "strengthen the group in the intermediate term". In NatWest UK, costs were 2 per cent up, because of productivity costs, the profit-share scheme and a £30 provision for misselling of pension transfers. Excluding these, said Mr Wanless, costs would have been 3 per cent lower.

Mr Wanless said that income was flat due to subdued loan demand.

Lord Alexander of Weedon, chairman, attacked critics who call banks "greedy" for making profits and who assume that all profits have been earned from UK customers. One third of profits came from the UK, he said.

US banks merge, page 26
Pennington, page 27

ADRIAN BROOKS



Lord Alexander of Weedon, chairman of NatWest, attacked misunderstanding among the critics of banks' profits

Persil Power was 'greatest' setback

By Susan Gilchrist

SIR Michael Perry, chairman of Unilever, admitted yesterday that the launch of Persil Power was the greatest marketing setback the group has ever experienced.

Unilever launched the detergent in Europe last year only to find that the product damaged clothing.

Yesterday it emerged the resulting problems cost Unilever £57 million in write-offs. However, Sir Michael insisted that the lessons had been learnt.

His remarks came as Unilever unveiled a 24 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £2.38 billion from £1.93 billion in the year to December 31. Excluding £490 million of exceptional charges in the previous period, underlying earnings rose by just 3 per cent.

Sir Michael described the year as one of contrasting experiences. A disappointing performance from Europe clouded a marked improvement in profits from North America and continuing strong growth from the rest of the world.

A final dividend of 20.3p (18.95p) brings the total payout to 26.81p (25.03p) and will be paid to shareholders on May 19.

Tempus, page 28



Sir Michael: lessons learnt

Lautro offers settlement in Pru leak case

By Robert Miller

LAUTRO, the outgoing regulator for life companies, has offered a substantial settlement to a former female employee who was dismissed after an independent investigation by Simmons & Simmons, a city firm of lawyers. The offer has not yet been accepted.

Simmons & Simmons was appointed last summer to pinpoint the source of a leak of highly confidential and potentially damaging documents. These concerned an informal Lautro investigation into the pensions selling practices of the Prudential, Britain's largest insurer.

Lautro, with the full approval of the Prudential, appointed Simmons & Simmons to investigate the leak. It is believed that the insurer expected to be kept fully informed of the progress of the investigation. In the autumn, however, the Prudential was told that the matter had been resolved internally. It is understood the Prudential has not been allowed to see the report. Last night the company declined to comment.

Esme Chandler, the Lautro employee, was dismissed after the completion of the Simmons & Simmons investigation. She is understood to have alleged wrongful dismissal and was prepared to take her case to an industrial tribunal.

Lautro, in the meantime, has made a substantial compensation offer which Ms Chandler has not yet accepted. Speculation, albeit anecdotal, has it that Ms Chandler was not responsible for the leak.

Simmons & Simmons said: "We are unable to comment whether we are involved with this case or not."

The high profile leak of the sensitive Lautro documents led to a furious row between the regulator and Mick Newmarch, then chief executive of the Prudential.

Last month Mr Newmarch quit his post after the company admitted that his relationship with City regulators had broken down and the Stock Exchange was investigating his dealings in Prudential shares.

The share transaction took place hours before a damning report on personal pensions misselling was published by the Securities and Investments Board. Treasury sources have recently alleged that Mr Newmarch was aware of the contents of the report after he had a personal meeting with Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

UN attacks Britain's job policy

By Philip Bassett
Industrial Editor

THE Government's job policies are sharply criticised today by the United Nations' principal employment body, which proposes that Britain should embrace full employment as its main economic goal.

Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, is expected to reject largely the findings of a year-long analysis of world jobs and unemployment carried out by the UN's International Labour Office. But Labour Party leaders will welcome the conclusions as an authoritative rejection of a central aspect of the Government's economic policies.

John Major, the Prime Minister, is expected to go to Copenhagen in a fortnight to join other world leaders at the UN's world social summit, whose likely declaration of a re-commitment to full employment as a key world goal is foreshadowed in today's report.

Michel Hansenne, the ILO's Director-General, launching the study, will reject the idea that little can be done to solve unemployment and will insist that the task of creating sufficient new jobs to overcome unemployment, under-employment and low pay "ranks as the primary challenge for economic and social policy in all countries at all levels of development across the globe".

The ILO's report includes a range of policy prescriptions specifically designed to help Third World countries and the "transitional" economies of eastern Europe. But UK political and business leaders will seize mainly on its conclusions about the jobs record of the industrialised countries, and especially on the policy of deregulating the labour market which the Government has vigorously pursued.

Full employment, the ILO says, played a central part in post-war economic success and it is now important and timely for countries to revive that commitment: "The co-ordination of economic policies and the operation of global trade, financial and investment systems will then needed to be viewed from the standpoint of their impact on employment outcomes."

Britain against the world, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3023.4	(+4.8)
Yield	4.35%	
FT-SE A All share	1496.00	(+1.42)
Nikkei	18096.25	(+139.77)
New York:		
Dow Jones	3960.60	(+7.06)*
S&P Composite	482.57	(+0.60)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	6%*	(5¾%)‡
Long Bond	100[17]/32*	(100[11]/32)‡
Yield	7.60%*	(7.58%)‡

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6¾%	(6¾%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	101[1]/32	(101[11]/32)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5820*	(1.5825)‡
London:		
$	1.5825	(1.5825)
DM	2.3372	(2.3334)
FFr	8.1490	(8.1220)
SFr	1.9752	(1.9720)
Yen	153.95	(153.74)
£ Index	87.0	(86.9)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4765*	(1.4810)‡
FFr	5.1485*	(5.1540)‡
SFr	1.2480*	(1.2525)‡
Yen	97.27*	(97.30)‡
$ Index	61.6	(61.4)

Tokyo close Yen 97.63

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (May) $16.90 ($16.85)

GOLD

London close $378.65 ($379.35)

* Midday figure ‡ Friday's close

Opt out fall out

Company directors claim that the Government's social chapter opt-out is insufficient to protect businesses in Britain from damaging European employment legislation. The criticism will be felt all the more strongly because it comes from the free-market and normally supportive IoD. Page 26

Best policy

Guardian Royal Exchange, the composite insurance group, said yesterday that the industry has to reorganise in the face of falling margins and a downturn in the insurance cycle. Page 27

CORBY
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NAME
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P/CODE TEL:

CORBY Nobody does it Better

PolyGram's golden weddings

The low-budget *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, nominated for an Oscar as best film in this year's academy awards, has now grossed more than $250 million worldwide, making it the most successful British movie production of all time, said PolyGram, the music and entertainment company, yesterday (Martin Barrow writes).

PolyGram, which produced *Four Weddings*, received Oscar nominations for no fewer than five films earlier this month. The film division, established three years ago, again failed to make a profit last year, however, losing 42 million guilders (£16 million).

The company reported a 20 per cent rise in net income to Fl738 million in 1994, from Fl614 million in the previous 12 months, underpinned by successes in the music business.

Best-selling classical titles, included Decca London's *Three Tenors*, which sold a further one million copies, taking its total to more than 11 million audio and video sales.

PolyGram is 80 per cent owned by Philips Electronics.



Success for *Three Tenors* (with conductor Zubin Metha) has been to the tune of 11 million audio and video sales for Decca London

US banks merge in $3.7bn deal

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH IN NEW YORK

TWO Boston banks are to merge, creating a powerful regional force and one of the ten largest banks in America. Fleet Financial said yesterday it would acquire Shawmut National in a share exchange deal worth $3.7 billion. The merger will mean the loss of 3,000 jobs.

The banks expect the transaction to be completed by the end of this year. Headquartered in Boston, the new company will be called Fleet Financial Group and will have more than $80 billion in assets and $50 billion in deposits. It will be the biggest bank in the region.

The firms said yesterday they expected to save about $400 million annually, or 14 per cent of expenses, because of the merger. Much of this will come after the new bank sheds about 10 per cent of its 30,000 employees.

The banks said the company would take a $400 million charge to cover merger expenses.

Directors fear opt-out will not protect business

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

COMPANY directors claim that the Government's social chapter opt-out is insufficient to protect businesses in Britain from damaging European employment legislation.

The criticism of the opt-out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty will be felt all the more strongly by UK ministers since it comes from the free-market and normally highly supportive Institute of Directors.

The IoD, in research published today on the impact in Britain of Brussels legislation providing for new European Works Councils (EWCs) makes clear that it supports the opt-out as highly desirable, but the institute's questioning of its strength is likely to irritate ministers already facing strong pressure from Brussels for Britain to abandon it next year.

Tim Melville-Ross, the IoD Director-General, says: "It is clear that the UK opt-out is insufficient to protect business from obsolete and damaging European legislation. The IoD will be pressing for a review of the works council directive as a matter of urgency."

Directors' leaders will amplify their opposition to EWCs at an IoD conference on works councils today. The institute says it finds grudging compliance with the EWC directive among the UK companies likely to be affected by it.

In spite of the opt-out, British-based multinationals will have to set up EWCs if they have 1,000 or more employees in member states other than the UK, with at least 150 employees in two different states.

The survey is based on detailed telephone interviews with 44 companies — a significant proportion of those likely to be affected by the EWC directive. Although none of the companies would allow itself to be named on the grounds that negotiations were sensitive, a quarter of those surveyed are talking to unions on setting up an EWC while a further 55 per cent are actively preparing corporate strategies in advance of negotiations.

Although most companies remain "overwhelmingly opposed" to including UK operations in any EWC they eventually establish, three-fifths fear strong union pressure to do so. One company criticised the Government for failing to help businesses to resist the unions.

The IoD says that the research demonstrates that its concern about the damaging impact of EWCs on companies and competitiveness is correct. ☐ UK import businesses stress their value to Britain's trade in a survey estimating that more than 10 per cent of all the UK's imports are re-exported, contributing more than £14 billion to the export trade figures. The survey, by Lloyds Bank and the British Importers' Confederation, says that the contribution of importers is underestimated.

UK stands alone, page 29

Britain to create open market in gilt repos

BY JANET BUSH ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Government yesterday said that it was going ahead with plans to create an open market in gilt repos, a move it believes will improve the efficiency and liquidity of the market and reduce the cost of financing the budget deficit.

It is hoped that the new market will start at the beginning of next year. The Treasury said that transition to the new system would cost about £100 million in the 1995-1996 tax year but a negligible amount after that. The front-loaded costs should be "offset and substantially exceeded" by lower yields and therefore lower borrowing costs for the Government.

In deciding to go ahead with the repo market, the Treasury has accepted the argument that overseas investors will be more attracted to the British government bond market. Other major government bond markets already operate repo markets and have a higher proportion of foreign holdings of gilts than the British market.

The Treasury estimates that it could eventually save £25 million a year in public spending for every one basis point off gilt yields.

A repo is the sale of a bond with an agreement to repurchase it at a fixed price and time in the future. In effect, one party lends a certain amount of gilts to the other in return for cash.

As things stand, holders of gilt-edged stock can lend gilts in return for a fee but, unless they are authorised gilt-edged market-makers, they are not allowed to borrow stock and therefore take out short positions in the market. This kind of transaction will, under the new system, be available to institutional investors.

Pennington, page 27

Expro to be capitalised at £100m

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

EXPRO International Group, the oilfield services company created through a £53 million management buyout from Flextech in 1992, will be capitalised at more than £100 million when its shares begin trading on the stock market next month.

Expro provides products and services to most big oil groups. More than half of its business is outside the UK.

The placing, which is sponsored by Robert Fleming, is expected to raise more than £50 million to repay debt and redeem preference shares, virtually eliminating Expro's current balance sheet debt of about £51 million. Cazenove is broker to the issue.

Expro made an operating profit of £9.7 million in the nine months to December 31, on turnover of £52.9 million.



Expro's Kevan Fearnley, left, Colin Ainger and John Dawson, chief executive

It forecasts a 15 per cent advance in operating profits to £12 million in the year to March 31. Impact day is on March 14, with dealings due to begin on March 28.

☐ Shares in Zotefoams, the specialist polyethylene foam maker, will be priced at 145p each, capitalising the group at £52.6 million, when it is floated later this month. The placing, by NatWest Markets, will raise £23.4 million, of which some £14.2 million is new money. Cazenove is broker to the issue. Dealings are due to start on February 28.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.23	2.08
Austria Sch	17.45	15.35
Belgium Fr	51.13	46.83
Canada $	2.310	2.150
Cyprus Cypf	0.786	0.711
Denmark Kr	9.84	9.04
Finland Mkk	7.80	7.15
France Fr	8.57	7.82
Germany Dm	2.49	2.28
Greece Dr	389.00	364.00
Hong Kong $	12.85	11.85
Ireland Pt	1.05	0.97
Israel	5.2542	4.5042
Italy Lira	2625.00	2470.00
Japan Yen	168.00	152.00
Malta	0.611	0.556
Netherlds Gld	2.774	2.544
Norway Kr	10.86	10.06
Portugal Esc	253.50	236.00
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.35
Spain Pta	211.00	197.00
Sweden Kr	12.15	11.35
Switzerland Fr	2.10	1.92
Turkey Lira	refer	62848.0
USA $	1.577	1.547

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Dollar calmer after aid deal for Mexico

THE dollar was calmed on the foreign exchange market yesterday after agreement of a $20 billion American aid package for Mexico. However, the strong mark continued to keep the dollar and other currencies under pressure.

The German currency was bolstered by the Bundesbank, which said that Germany was now enjoying a broad-based economic recovery and that some price pressures were beginning to emerge. The central bank said that a slowing trend in headline inflation that had pushed January consumer price inflation to its lowest since June 1990 masked the fact that import and producer prices were creeping up. The comments fuelled speculation that the Bundesbank may soon follow interest rate increases that have occurred in other countries. The mark hit a record high against the lira, prompting the Bank of Italy to support the Italian currency. The French franc hit a 15-month low against the mark, further undermined by political uncertainty ahead of presidential elections.

Receivers at Multiyork

ADMINISTRATIVE receivers have been appointed at Multiyork, the furniture manufacturer and retailer. The company has 40 showrooms nationwide and employs 460 people, mainly at the head office in Thetford, Norfolk. Last year, it incurred losses of £2.7 million on sales of £22 million. The showrooms will cease trading for at least two days and manufacturing will be halted while stocktaking can take place. Peter Flesher and Andrew Conquest, partners at Grant Thornton, who have been appointed administrative receivers, say the chance of finding a buyer for the business are "reasonably high".

Record for Newcastle

NEWCASTLE Building Society has announced a record increase in profits in spite of a subdued housing market that led to a £17 million fall in mortgage lending to £182 million. Profits rose 10.6 per cent to £15.4 million in the year to end December, while total assets were up 7.7 per cent to £1.3 billion. The society, which also opened an offshore banking operation based in Gibraltar, acquired the shares it did not already own in Adamson Newcastle, a housebuilder, leading to a charge to profits for minority interests of £539,000. Bad debt provision rose to nearly £2 million (£1.6 million) in view of the society's pessimistic outlook for the housing market.

Short to take over at UB

SIR ROBERT CLARKE, 66, chairman of United Biscuits, is to retire from the board after 24 years with the company. He will be succeeded by Colin Short, 60, an executive director of ICI, who has been a non-executive director on UB's board for almost three years. Sir Robert said Mr Short had made an important contribution to the development of group strategy and had been the board's nominated successor as chairman for some time. He has a strong international background with particular expertise in the Pacific region, where UB is keen to expand. He leaves ICI in April.

TNT profits soar

TNT, the Australian transport group, has reported a 227.9 per cent leap in profits to A$73.10 million (£34 million) in the six months to December 31, from A$22.29 million in the first half of the previous year. The company said the improvement reflected strong performances from Britain, Germany and Australia. There will be no return yet to dividend payments. Over the past two years, the company has sold more than A$320 million worth of non-core assets, after a period of heavy losses and high debt levels. Revenue rose to A$3.06 billion from A$2.85 billion.

Macro 4 lifts interim

MACRO 4, the independent computer software company, offset the impact of difficult trading conditions in the mainframe sector by lifting sales of its mid-range products and maintaining a tight control on costs. In the half-year to December 31, profits rose to £5.7 million before tax from £5.4 million, on turnover almost unchanged at £12.3 million. The interim dividend is increased to 8.6p a share from 8.02p, payable on May 1, from earnings of 16.7p a share, rising from 16p. In November, the company acquired 1.1 million of its own shares for cancellation at a cost of £4.76 million.

THE TIMES
Win a £6,000 PEP



A Personal Equity Plan (PEP) is a way of investing money out of the reach of the tax man and *The Times*, in association with TSB Bank, is offering you the chance to win a £6,000 PEP.

Answer the questions which appeared on Saturday, which will reappear on Friday, collect four of the six PEP tokens which are appearing each day, and you could win an investment in your choice of three TSB unit trusts:

- The TSB UK Income Fund aims to provide a high-income return with the potential for some capital growth over the longer term, from investments in Britain;
- The TSB UK Growth Fund invests in a wide range of UK ordinary shares and aims for long-term capital growth;
- The TSB Worldwide Growth Fund aims for long-term capital growth from a broad spread of international securities, with at least half of the fund invested in Europe.

These three funds, which were launched in November 1994, have all ranked in the top quartile of their particular unit trust sectors over the past three months.*

Because of the regulations governing PEPs, winners will receive a holding in the unit trust of their choice. Provided they are eligible, they will be able to convert this to a PEP at no cost either immediately or, if they have already taken out a PEP this year, after the end of the current financial year.

A PEP investment is an excellent home for long-term savings, with all income and capital growth exempt from both income tax and capital gains tax. Readers can obtain full details of TSB PEPs at their nearest TSB Bank branch.

How to enter

Collect four of the six tokens which are appearing this week and send them on a postcard with the answer to Saturday's questions plus the tie-breaker by March 1, 1995 to: *The Times* Win a PEP Competition, Week 1, 16 Whitefriars Street, EC4B 2NG. The winner will be selected from all correct entries received by the closing date.

* Source: Micropal offer-to-offer, income not reinvested.

THE TIMES
PEP
Token 4
TSB

Courage to drop guest beer penalty

BY ERIC REGULY

COURAGE, the second largest brewer, will no longer penalise tied public house tenants who buy cask ales from competing suppliers.

An announcement follows complaints to the Office of Fair Trading that Courage had breached supply agreements reached under the Beer Orders of 1989. These said that large brewers must allow tenants to purchase one guest ale from any supplier of their choice, and not be financially penalised for doing so.

Courage admitted that it sometimes had withdrawn volume discounts if its publicans bought cask ales from suppliers other than Courage. But Courage, while not discouraging the purchase of competing guest ales, will offer incentives to tenants who stick with the company.

A Courage spokesman said the new guest ale policy was "clarification of a slightly obscure piece of legislation".

Sir Bryan Carsberg, Director-General of Fair Trading, said: "Since the company has now agreed to amend its practices, I see no need to take further action. Nevertheless, I am concerned by recent reports in the trade press alleging actions of this kind by other brewers."

The OFT's inquiry into guest beers is not directly related to its probe into brewers' wholesale prices. The OFT is investigating whether tied tenants are charged higher prices for beer than independent pub owners.

THE TIMES
BUSINESS TO BUSINESS
APPEARS EVERY TUESDAY
TELEPHONE
071 481 3024 or
Fax 071 481 9313

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

BODY, PETER ALFRED BODY late of Plymouth, Devon died there on 11 November 1994 (Estate about £98,000)
CLAVIN, ELSIE ADA CLEAVIN SPINSTER late of Leicester, Leicestershire died there on 2 November 1994 (Estate about £77,000)
COKER otherwise DAVENPORT, HANNAH GERTRUDE COKER otherwise GERTRUDE DAVENPORT SPINSTER late of Stockwell, London SW9 died at Sydenham, London SE26 on 1 June 1994 (Estate about £12,000)
FRENCH, ROBERT FRANK FRENCH late of Roehampton, London SW15 died there on 2 September 1994 (Estate about £27,000)
GOOLD, PERCY WILLIAM GOOLD late of Battersea, London SW11 died at Southwark London SE1 on 7 April 1993 (Estate about £8,000).
HAWES, ROBERT LANGDON HAWES late of Hackney, London E5 died there on 27 October 1994 (Estate about £64,000)
HOSKING, VIOLET MABEL LENORA HOSKING SPINSTER late of Wimbledon, London SW19 died at Roehampton, London SW15 on 28 October 1994 (Estate about £95,000).
LEES, NORMAN DENNISS LEES otherwise NORMAN DENNIS LEES late of Harrow, Middlesex died there on 2 March 1994 (Estate about £33,000)
NICHOLLS, BEATRICE ELIZABETH NICHOLLS otherwise BEATRICE NICHOLLS SPINSTER late of Eastbourne, East Sussex died there on 15 October 1983 (Estate about £4,500)
NORTHWOOD nee MARDELL, BEATRICE GLADYS NORTHWOOD otherwise BETTY NORTHWOOD nee MARDELL WIDOW late of New Milton, Hampshire died there on 20 June 1994 (Estate about £65,000)
SMETHERS, nee MUNDEN, ROSE ELLEN SMETHERS nee MUNDEN WIDOW late of Palmers Green, London N13 died at Tottenham, London N18 on 15 April 1991 (Estate about £52,000)
TAPPIN, ARCHIBALD WALTER JAMES TAPPIN late of South Hampstead, London NW6 died at Bloomsbury, London WC1 on 16 August 1992 (Estate about £90,000)
TAYLOR, TIMOTHY PAUL TAYLOR late of Findern, Derbyshire died there on 15 October 1994 (Estate about £200,000)
TAYLOR formerly REED, COLIN TAYLOR formerly REED late of Wolverton, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire died there on 6 April 1994 (Estate about £40,000)
WRIGHT nee FLEET, FRANCES MARY FLORENCE WRIGHT otherwise FRANCES MARY WRIGHT nee FLEET WIDOW late of Sidcup, Kent died at New Eltham, London SE9 on 17 June 1993 (Estate about £8,200)
The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.
McKENZIE otherwise MACKENZIE, WILLIAM McKENZIE otherwise WILLIAM MACKENZIE late of Leeds, West Yorkshire died at Otley, West Yorkshire on 13 August 1989 (Estate about £6,000).
The kin of the above-named and James Samuel Chilvers, named in his will are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

LEGAL NOTICES

SEM ENGINEERING LIMITED
Registered number: 2793192. Trading name(s): SEM Engineering. SEM Canterbury. SEM Specialist Nature of business: Coachbuilders and Design Engineers. Trade classification: 3800. Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 13 February 1995. Name of person appointing administrative receiver(s): Woodrich Transport Limited. N J Hamilton-Smith and D J Mason Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos) 2093 and 6731) of Morton Thornton & Co., Torrington House, 47 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Herts AL1 1HD

Kistor Hotels (Turkey) Limited
Registered Number: 2643577. Trading Name: Kistor Hotel. Nature of Business: Hoteliers. Trade Classification: 47. Date of Appointment of Administrative Receiver(s): 10 February 1995. Name of person appointing the Administrative Receiver(s): Barclays Mercantile Business Finance Limited. Type of Security: Mortgage Debenture. Date of Security: 25 July 1991. Names of persons appointed: S V Priestley and I. A Manning both of Buchler Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF. Office Holder Nos: 8291 and 6477.

LEGAL NOTICES

KEY-CHEM (UK) LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of unsecured creditors of the above named Company will be held at 4 CHARTERHOUSE SQUARE, LONDON EC1M 6EN at 12.00 hours on 3RD MARCH 1995 for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 of the said Act. A copy of the report prepared by the joint administrative receivers under section 48 of the said Act. The meeting may, if it thinks fit, establish a committee to exercise the functions conferred on creditors committees by or under the Act. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting. Other creditors are only entitled to vote if: (a) they have delivered to me at the address shown above, no later than 1200 hours on 2ND MARCH 1995, written details of the debts they claim to be due to them from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of Rule 2.11 of the Insolvency Rules 1986; and (b) there has been lodged with me any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf. Date: 15.2.95 M R Darrington Joint Administrative receiver.

PREMIER PORTFOLIO LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
A meeting of the creditors of Premier Portfolio Limited is to be held at Price Waterhouse, Thames Court, 1 Victoria Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1HB on 3 March 1995 at 3.30pm under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the receivers and, if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors. Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and wish to attend should contact the receivers' office (telephone number 01737 765300) and ask for Mr R Kingdom.
Any creditors requiring a copy of the report (which is available free of charge) should write to Price Waterhouse, Bridge Gate, 55-57 High Street, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1RX.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
MD Gerche
Joint Administrative Receiver
8 February 1995
MDG/MLQ/RARPRO2/106LE

PREMIER PORTFOLIO GROUP PLC (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
A meeting of the creditors of Premier Portfolio Group Limited is to be held at Price Waterhouse, Thames Court, 1 Victoria Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1HB on 3 March 1995 at 3.00pm under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the receivers and, if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors. Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and wish to attend should contact the receivers' office (telephone number 01737 765300) and ask for Mr R Kingdom.
Any creditors requiring a copy of the report (which is available free of charge) should write to Price Waterhouse, Bridge Gate, 55-57 High Street, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1RX.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
MD Gerche
Joint Administrative Receiver
8 February 1995

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
LEARN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF on 1 March 1995 at 11.00am, for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act. A list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at Buchler Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. on 27 and 28 February 1995. Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge a full statement of account and an informal proof of debt and those attending in person a proxy at Buchler Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF no later than 12.00 noon on 28 February 1995. Secured Creditors must, unless they surrender their security, give particulars of their security and its estimated value if they wish to vote at the Meeting. By Order of the Board. Dated 17 February 1995. J Shannon, Director

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
OAKLANDS COMMERCIALS LIMITED. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at The Old Exchange, 234 Southchurch Rd, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2EG on 23rd March 1995 at 10.15 a.m. for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act. Notice is also hereby given, pursuant to Section 98(2)(A) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that Jamie Taylor of Messrs. Traylor Gethin & Fry, The Old Exchange, 234 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2EG is qualified to act as an Insolvency Practitioner in relation to the above company, and will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the company's affairs as they may reasonably require. Dated the 16th day of February 1995. By order of the Board. Giuseppe Recrota Director.

T.P.E. Group Limited
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, 22nd Floor, London W2 6LF, on 28th February 1995 at 12.00 for the purposes provided in Section 98 of sec. A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 555, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, 22nd Floor, London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors. DATED THIS 16th February 1995. Marc Ernest Hodgkiss - Director.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
071-782 7344
FAX: 071-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

☐ Riding the banking cycle ☐ Gilt repurchase market needs placid waters ☐ Minister spells out realities

NatWest thinks long

☐ SO FAR so good. Having set itself a target of earning an average 17.5 per cent on shareholders' funds over the banking cycle, Lord Alexander's "new" team at NatWest Group has quickly built up to 18.7 per cent. But neither the board nor anyone else can yet be sure what stage the banking cycle has reached.

Over the past two years, economic recovery has helped to boost group pre-tax profits from £400 million to £1.6 billion through its banks having to provide far less against bad and doubtful debts. Given the greater awareness of risk these days, there should be a further £100 million-£200 million to come from lower provisions, but that phase is really over.

By the second half of 1994, however, investment banking profits had turned down, albeit NatWest Markets has made itself more stable than some by specialising in securities and treasury operations. Investment banks, like stock market prices, can be one of the first forward indicators of the cycle. NatWest's own shares sell at only 7.7 times 1994 earnings, suggesting that the City is not looking for much medium-term growth.

The conventional cycle may, however, not be much of a guide this time. The growth normally seen in business lending as economic recovery blossoms has yet to make any appearance. The group's risk-weighted assets, mainly lending, stagnated in 1994 and are lower than five years ago. Tougher lending policies and risk management, though less in evidence at NatWest than some rivals, have tended to stifle natural growth so far. But that leaves well managed banks with a problem. They have money to lend, overheads to spread and momentum to sustain. But they want to avoid getting involved in yet another of those easy lending splurges that go horribly wrong and regularly make bankers a laughing stock.

Lloyds is trying to resolve this dilemma by buying Cheltenham & Gloucester's share of the housing market. NatWest rejects that approach and is still selling a few odd businesses, though it has bought in America to rebuild in retail banking. Its main answer is to spread abroad, more carefully this time, and to invest in selected businesses such as life assurance, investment banking and international private banking, helped by the Coutts brand. It would like to buy an American investment bank, but has not rushed. Several have come and gone, though another interesting play is now available.

This strategy looks more risky in the short term but safer over the long haul. The immediate effect has been to boost costs by a net 5 per cent, despite continuing, staff-annoying cuts in British high street banking. These extra overheads account for most of an 11 per cent fall in trading profits before provisions, which did not please City analysts. When bank profits are becoming politically embarrassing again, however, this could prove shrewd if the extra overheads deliver business.

Yielding to calls for repo market



☐ THE establishment of a repurchase market in gilts was inevitable but has taken a surprisingly long time to come. In many ways, London's financial markets have long been far more sophisticated than their counterparts in Europe and London dwarfs Frankfurt and Paris as a financial centre. Yet, repo markets were established in France and Germany first.

The advent of open repos is potentially the most far-reaching change in the gilt market, apart from the auction system, since Big Bang in 1996. Its belated coming may owe, as one leading gilt commentator put it, to a philosophy within the Bank of England of "one miracle at a time".

Now that the Bank and the Treasury have eventually acceded to the will of the market — and particularly to non-domestic gilt-edged market makers and their overseas institutional investor clients — great claims are being made for the innovation.

The Treasury talked enthusiastically yesterday about the gap between the cost of borrowing in Britain and the relatively lower cost in America, France and Germany. The cost, officials estimated, is some 100 basis points higher than in the US and 60 basis points above France.

At least some of this premium was being put down to the lack of flexibility conferred by a repo market. But this is a touch disingenous. Risk premia in the British government bond market have substantially been because of the vagaries of British economic policy. Prime among these are a poor relative record on inflation and periodic crises in sterling.

The hope is that the new repo market will, from the beginning of next year, attract more foreign investors and so lower yields. But, so near to the election, that seems a forlorn hope in the near future. Foreign investors have been bailing out of gilts and sterling, a painful protest against disarray within the Government and are not likely to find British assets any more popular for the rest of this Parliament.

In more placid political times, the repo market may come into its own and make a marginal difference to borrowing costs. But there will be no short-term dividend for this Government.

Working together, on the wrong box

☐ BRITAIN may never again develop a fighter plane, tank or frigate unaided. Modern weapons systems are so complex, their cost so huge, that only by collaborating can European nations now afford the defence equipment they need at a price that fits peacetime priorities.

Working together, with a continent-wide market for their products, Europe's weapons makers should be able to match the scale economies of their American and Russian counterparts and remain at the forefront of technology. Export prospects will be enhanced, and any fears of European conflict reduced.

Roger Freeman, Britain's defence procurement minister, has recognised this reality, and had the good sense to spell it out, both to the Commons and to the public. With commendable energy, he has set about encouraging Europe's weapons makers to develop closer links.

His proposal to join the Franco-German armoured vehicle programme nevertheless provokes a question. How far down the hierarchy of technology need collaboration extend?

Britain wants, in the words of one industrialist, "an armoured box on wheels, with a pop-gun," procured by competitive tender, in the next century. France wants a more sophisticated machine, built by its national champion, with foreign partners, in three years time. Germany wants the best of all worlds.

Forcing British firms into a Euro-contest over the wrong product would do them, and the taxpayer, no favours. In this case, the minister might do well to keep his options open.

Mortgage gap

☐ MORTGAGE lenders will feel happier about the shortage of business if they read a paper by insurance broker Peter Dale, which foresees defaults multiplying fourfold as a result of the Budget cuts in income support for mortgage interest after October. In many cases, insurance should eventually fill the gap but policies tailored to meet this new risk have yet to be designed, let alone marketed.

Guardian Royal says insurance must reorganise

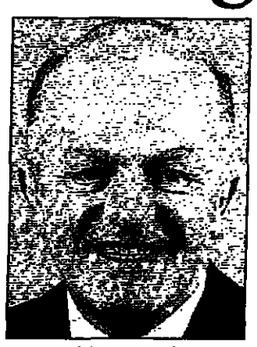
BY SARAH BAGNALL
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

GUARDIAN Royal Exchange, the composite insurance group, said yesterday that the industry has to reorganise in the face of falling margins and a downturn in the insurance cycle.

The company has made an unexpected £28 million exceptional charge against 1994 profits to cover reorganisation costs in the UK, where more than 500 jobs are to be cut, of which 400 are to go on the general insurance side over the next two years, reducing the general workforce by 10 per cent. A further 100 jobs are going at head office and among information technology staff.

The exceptional charge also covers reorganisation at Albingia, the German operation, and the company's American operations. The life side is not immune to job cuts, but the £11 million associated cost is absorbed by the life fund.

Despite the exceptional charge, GRE's trading profits leapt 63 per cent in the year to December 31, rising from £183 million to £298 million. The final dividend, payable on July 3, was lifted to 5.4p, making a total of 8.25p, up 8.6 per cent on last year.


Robins: warning

The advances were better than the market expected and the shares rose 4p to 177p.

John Robins, recently installed as chief executive, said: "I am pleased that the strong trading position has been maintained throughout 1994, with all major territories contributing to our significant advance in trading profit."

GRE takes unrealised as well as realised investment gains against profits and as a result it made a pre-tax loss of £75 million, compared with a £751 million profit last time. The sharp deterioration reflects a £373 million investment loss in 1994, caused by the fall in world investment markets during the first half, against a £568 million gain in 1993.

The picture is brighter at the underwriting level. The general insurance operations made an underwriting profit of £15 million against a loss of £119 million last time. This is a sharp turnround in fortunes.

The UK, the group's largest territory, lifted general insurance trading profits from £74 million to £160 million, while Albingia made a trading profit of £14 million, against a loss of £13 million last time.

Guardian Direct, the direct insurance operation launched last March, has 31,000 policyholders, slightly fewer than the target of 40,000-50,000.

The life operations lifted operating profits by £2 million to £25 million on premium income up from £758 million to £862 million.

Tempus, page 28

CentreGold shares slump after profit warning

SHARES in CentreGold slumped 37p to 60p after the computer and video games distributor issued a profits warning, wiping nearly £16 million off the company's market value.

CentreGold, floated on the stock market at 125p a share in October 1993, will report an interim loss of about £3.6 million in the six months to January. The company, which made a pre-tax profit of £4 million in its last full year, will axe its interim dividend (0.8p last time).

Trading has been adversely affected by "a significant setback in demand for cartridge video games in the European and American markets". First-half sales fell to about £41 million from £53 million. Stock provisions will amount to £2.9 million.

The company blames excess supply in a competitive market, which eroded margins during the Christmas period. There is also consumer resistance to purchasing older technologies ahead of the launch of video games hardware systems using CD technologies. Last October, Geoff Brown, chief executive, cut his stake in the company to 29 per cent, raising £1.36 million after he sold 1.38 million shares at 98p.

Tempus, page 28

Dye maker begins review of business

BY NEIL BENNETT, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

YORKSHIRE CHEMICALS, the specialist dyes and tanning chemicals group, has started a fundamental review of its business, looking at ways of expanding it in the second half of the decade. The group announced the review after publishing record profits of £14.4 million for 1994, up 10 per cent.

Phillip Lowe, the chairman, said that the review had been prompted by the company's rate of expansion. Yorkshire plans to expand its dyes manufacturing plant at its Leeds site towards the end of the year, but will soon run out of space at its existing site. The review will decide whether to open a new site or move completely.

The company's profit growth stalled in the second half because of strong price competition in the dyes business. Yorkshire also suffered the loss of £5 million turnover and $350,000 profit after it closed its chemicals merchanting business in the US at the start of 1994.

Yorkshire's turnover rose by 7 per cent in 1994, to £120 million. Earnings per share also increased by 7 per cent, to 22.5p.

The group is paying a 5.85p final dividend on April 6, to make 8.6p, up by 6 per cent.

Tempus, page 28


Lowe: record profits

AIM wins boost from tax ruling

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

THE Alternative Investment Market (AIM), the new market for shares in smaller companies that is due to start on June 19, has received a tax boost with an announcement by Sir George Young, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, that securities dealt in the AIM will be treated as unquoted securities for tax purposes.

This means that various tax reliefs remain available to companies moving from dealings under Rule 4.2 to the AIM, and become available to those companies formerly dealt on the Unlisted Securities Market that decide to be dealt on the AIM rather than seek a full listing.

The tax reliefs that are available to unquoted securities include inheritance tax relief, capital gains tax reinvestment relief, and reliefs under the Enterprise Investment Scheme and Venture Capital Trusts.

Sedgwick advances 34%

BY OUR INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

SEDGWICK Group, the insurance broking group, yesterday said pre-tax profits leapt 34 per cent to £94.4 million in the year to December 31.

Sax Riley, chief executive, said the growth endorsed the group's strategy put in place three years ago. "Our strategy will continue to be one of expansion — through organic growth, cross-selling, acquisitions when the right opportunities arise, and through venturing into new and complementary markets," he said.

The final dividend, payable on March 16, was lifted to 3.5p, making a total for the year of 6.5p, up from 6p last time. The dividend is being paid out of earnings of 11p a share, up 22 per cent from last time in spite of the issue of new shares. The shares rose 2p to 162p.

The group made an £18.1 million exceptional charge to cover write-off of property and IT costs and run-off costs. These were offset by exceptional disposal profits of £18.2 million. Brokerage and fees rose 17 per cent to £888.7 million, of which underlying sales growth was 3 per cent. Interest and investment income fell 15 per cent to £42.6 million, reflecting the good bond profits made in 1993.

Overall expenses increased 15 per cent to £829.1 million, of which 14 percentage points reflect the acquisition of Noble Lowndes, the consultancy benefits company, in 1993. As a result, underlying expenses advanced 1 per cent.

The *British* company that developed the world's most advanced SAFETY PROCESSOR for RAILWAYS, that is in the world forefront of LEAD ACID BATTERY TECHNOLOGY, is also the *British* company whose GOLF BALLS are chosen by the world's leading players.

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STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Equities stay over 3,000 in spite of sterling jitters

THE equity market managed to stay above the 3,000 level in spite of another nervous performance from sterling and Government securities extending their recent losses. But it was a close run thing, with London failing to draw strength from a return to business after the President's Day celebrations on Wall Street, where prices were marked higher at the outset following agreement between the US and Mexico on a $20 billion aid package.

Prices traded in narrow limits for much of the day with the FT-SE 100 index having to endure early futures related selling, which saw it touch the 3,012 level. The subsequent rally lacked substance and the rise was eventually halved, with the index finishing just 4.8 up at 3,023.4.

Turnover was again on the low side, with just 456 million shares traded in spite of talk of a large programme trade being conducted by stockbroker UBS.

Northern Electric marked time for much of the day, with City speculators anxiously awaiting the increased terms from **Trafalgar House**. The current terms value Northern at £10.48, with whispers in the market-place claiming Trafalgar may be ready to increase the value of the bid to between £11.50 and £12 a share. Northern finished 3p lighter at £11.17 and Trafalgar was unchanged at 66p.

There was further solid institutional support for the two English power generators ahead of next month's proposed sell-off by the Government of its remaining stake in the companies. **PowerGen** climbed 12p to 515p, while **National Power** improved 5p to 486p.

Vendome, the luxury goods group boasting famous brand names including Cartier watches, Dunhill lighters and Mont Blanc pens, fell 20p to 426p in the wake of a profits downgrading by at least one stockbroker. Hoare Govett has cut its pre-tax profit estimate for the current year to March by £5 million to £250 million and for next year from £295 million to £275 million.

Vodafone added 2p to 184½, with Warburg Securities, the stockbroker, said to have upgraded its recommendation from a hold to a buy.

A review of the packaging industry by BZW has led to buy recommendations for



Cartier's parent Vendome fell 20p on lower forecasts

Bowater, 8p better at 406p, and **Low & Bonar**, 16p higher at 424p.

Full-year figures from **National Westminster Bank** were bang in line with City forecasts, showing pre-tax profits up from £989 million to £1.59 billion. Provision for bad debt was halved to £616 million and a strong performance was seen from the domestic banking arm. A drop in the trading surplus of 11 per cent to £2.13 billion and a warning from Lord Alexander, the chairman, that lending growth would be modest this year, left the shares 9p lower at 484p.

A modest increase in final pre-tax profits left **Unilever** 4p cheaper at £11.69. Pre-tax profits were 24 per cent ahead at £2.38 billion, but after stripping out exceptional items profits were only 4 per cent ahead on last year's final figure, which was depressed by a restructuring charge of almost £500 million.

The group said growth had been partly restrained by the launch of its new Power range of detergents, which had to be withdrawn initially following claims it destroyed certain fabrics.

Full-year figures from **Guardian Royal Exchange**, which kicked off the dividend season for the insurance composites, took some digesting.

Operating profits of almost £300 million were at the top end of the range and managed to offset news of investment losses. The 11 per cent fall in the net asset value was also less than feared, enabling the shares to close 3p dearer at 176p.

Sedgwick, the Lloyds insurance broker, was in confident mood as it unveiled a 34 per cent leap in pre-tax profits last year to £94.4 million, with the promise of even better to come. Sax Riley, chief executive, said expansion will be achieved through a mixture of organic growth, cross-selling, acquisitions and new markets.

Yorkshire Chemicals dropped 10p to 345p after final figures came in at the bottom end of City forecasts, with pre-tax profits £1.4 million ahead at £14.4 million. Brokers last night began downgrading their estimates for the current year, although Smith New Court, the stockbroker, said it would be sticking to its original figure of £15.7 million.

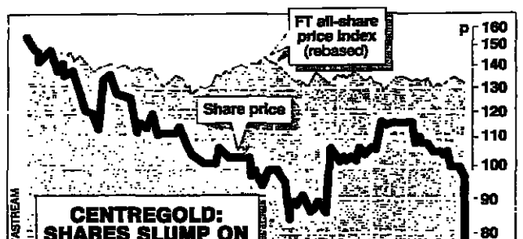
CentreGold, the computer and video games distributor, tumbled 37p to 60p, wiping almost £16 million from the company's stock market value of £42 million after warning of losses and no dividend. The group says it will report a deficit of £3.6 million in the six months to January, following a sharp drop in demand for cartridge video games in Europe and the US, where sales have fallen from £53 million to £41 million. □ **GILT-EDGED**: The market continued to lose ground ahead of today's £2 billion auction, with market-makers selling stock to make room for the new issue. Sentiment was again depressed by the pound's nervousness.

The March series of the Long Gilt traded lower during thin trading in the futures pit, ending £9/16 off at £101 1/32 as 40,000 contracts were completed.

Among conventional issues the benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 drifted almost £½ to £94 17/32, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was seven ticks off at £97 3/32.

In a separate move, the Treasury announced plans to set up an open gilt repo market by January 1996. At present only market-makers are allowed to go short in the bond market. The repo plan will open up stock borrowing facilities to a wider range of investors which should improve liquidity.

□ **NEW YORK**: Shares on Wall Street ran out of steam early and by midday were mixed. The Dow Jones industrial average stood at 3,960, up 7.06 points.



British Steel is the only steel company with net cash. It was also one of the heaviest traded stocks yesterday adding 4¾p to 157¼p as 8 million shares changed hands. This followed an upbeat presentation to the Society of Investment Analysts. Recent price rises have held. Demand is strong and continuing to grow.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):		
Dow Jones	3960.60	(+7.06)
S&P Composite	482.57	(+0.60)
Tokyo:		
Nikkei Average	18096.25	(+159.77)
Hong Kong:		
Hang Seng	6082.29	(+175.55)
Amsterdam:		
EOE Index	410.12	(+0.09)
Sydney:		
AO	1857.7	(+4.5)
Frankfurt:		
DAX	2097.04	(–1.50)
Singapore:		
Straits	2105.14	(+11.64)
Brussels:		
General	7037.18	(+18.45)
Paris:		
CAC-40	1805.62	(+3.38)
Zurich:		
SKA Gen	624.60	(+1.80)
London:		
FT 30	2298.2	(+0.6)
FT 100	3023.4	(+4.8)
FT-SE Mid 250	3414.4	(–1.7)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1309.97	(–4.95)
FT A All-Share	1496.00	(+1.42)
FT Non Financials	1618.91	(+1.51)
FT Gold Mines	201.7	(+1.4)
FT Fixed Interest	109.69	(–0.13)
FT Govt Secs	90.67	(–0.22)
Bargains	20351	
SEAQ Volume	456.2m	
USM (Datastrm)	146.55	(–0.06)
US$	1.5805	(–0.0035)
German Mark	2.3383	(–0.0051)
Exchange Index	97.0	(+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)		
£:ECU	1.2371	
£:SDR	n/a	
RPI	146.0 Jan (3.3%)	Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Bath Press (10)	13	...
Lazard Birla	50½	...
Lazard Birla Wts	29½	...
MCIT S Cap (35)	34	...
MCIT S Inc (35)	36	...
Matheson Lyds 1T (100)	79	–1
Pentex Oil	80	...
Photobition (150)	156	–2
Wessex Trust	117½	...
Woodchester Uts	125	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

BTP n/p (225)	13½	+ ½
Bath Press n/p (10)	3	...
Cadbury Schws n/p	85	+5
European Colour n/p (57)	19	+2
Nat Home Loans n/p (110)	½	...
Shorco n/p (90)	3	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:		
Lloyds	564p	(–8p)
Low & Bonar	424p	(–16p)
Transatlantic	332p	(–8p)
British Borneo	246p	(–13p)
Bowater	406p	(–7½p)
FALLS:		
Nat West	483p	(–10p)
Tilbury Douglas	475p	(–10p)
Laporte	626p	(–6p)
Burmah Castrol	854p	(–5p)
Provident	544p	(–6p)
British Biotech	477p	(–11p)
Reckitt Colman	630p	(–9p)
Royal	275p	(–6p)
Airtours	420p	(–16p)
Vendome	426p	(–20p)
First Choice	107p	(–6p)
First Leisure	274p	(–6p)
Rank Org	366p	(–5p)
Yorkshire Chems	345p	(–9p)
Eurodollar	193p	(–6p)
Kwik-Fit	143p	(–5p)
BAT	416p	(–6p)
Rothmans	458p	(–5p)
Glynwed	299p	(–7p)
Bespak	325p	(–5p)
UniChem	245p	(–5p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Upright Guardian

WITH the early wakenings of spring comes news of an overdue spring clean at Guardian. At last there are signs that the composite insurers are shaking off layers of dust and are taking action. Realism has hit home as the high margins of the past are relegated to the history books.

Guardian is first off the blocks, forming a strategy to combat the more hostile environment in which it operates. A £28 million reorganisation programme is under way, involving cost cutting, job losses, stripping out management layers and concentrating on the customer. The latter is vital as customer service is being used increasingly by companies to differentiate their products.

The restructuring comes as the UK insurance cycle is turning. Last time Guardian expanded into the downturn. This time the insurer is adamant it is not chasing volumes, witness by underlying growth in non-life premiums rising only 3 per cent in 1994.

This is vital as competition is severe, since the direct writers have made significant inroads into personal lines business. Guardian has a relatively high proportion of personal business — equal to 62.5 per cent of personal business premiums — so is more exposed to this competition than its rivals. There is a view that UK general insurance earnings peaked last year and with a gloomier outlook for the UK, the future success of Guardian rests with its ability to write for profit not volume and to exploit its overseas operations. The shares, at 177p, are trading at a generous 7 per cent discount to net assets, which takes account of much of the predicted hard times ahead.

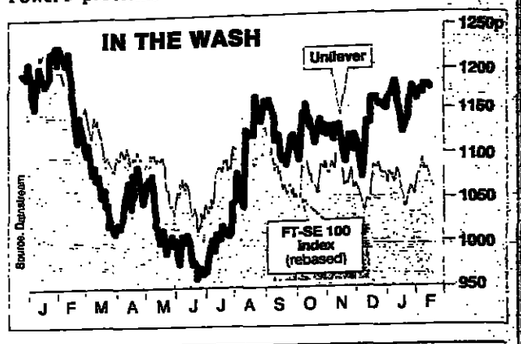
Unilever

THE launch of Persil Power has been expensive for Unilever. Aside from the £57 million of write-offs made after the debacle, the brand's problems reduced operating profits from detergents by £16 million. That ignores some £200 million of development and launch costs. It all adds up to a poor return on investment for shareholders.

Investors may also be disappointed by the lack of visible progress after last year's restructuring, which cost £490 million in exceptional charges and was supposed to improve profitability. Obviously the effect of such actions takes time, but there was little evidence of significant improvements, except in North America. Group operating margins actually fell to 7.7 per cent from 8.3 per cent.

Whatever the temporary problems, the long-term attractions of Unilever remain intact. Although Europe was wobbly last year, consumer spending should pick up strongly in the current year. Profits from the region should start to benefit from that increased demand combined with a lower cost base and the fact that Persil Power's problems are now safely behind it. North America and the rest of the world are likely to show continued progress.

The group will also prosper from the impact of £585 million worth of acquisitions made last year, which will add £1 billion to sales alone. On a prospective p/e of about 13 times, the shares look good value.



CentreGold

ANY investor who is contemplating piling into a new issue should take a wry look at CentreGold, the electronic game distributor.

The shares were placed at 125p in October 1993 and traded between 150p and 165p until the end of that year. Yesterday they closed 37p down at 60p, a fresh low, after a warning of £3.6 million losses in the half year to end January.

As with any small company in a single relatively specialised market, CentreGold has suffered horribly from ructions in its backyard. Video game manufacturers have announced new compact disc formats which will not be released until the Autumn leaving CentreGold with £2.9 million of provisions on "excess" stocks.

No half-year dividend is to be paid and despite directors' "confidence that a satisfactory level of profitability will be restored for the second half of the year" the payment of a final dividend will be "reviewed in the light of second half and full year results".

Not only small investors get caught out when things go wrong with new, small companies. Smith New Court, the house broker, had been expecting £5.3 million for the current year. It has now U-turned into a loss of £1.5 million, but is still expecting between £4 million and £5 million for 1995-96. Once bitten.

Yorkshire Chemicals

THE City is used to relentless growth from Yorkshire Chemicals so it took a dislike to yesterday's figures, which showed that profits almost stagnated in the second half. Growth slowed to 3 per cent in the half, compared with a robust 19 per cent advance between January and June.

A number of factors contributed to the slowdown. While prices in petrochemicals have soared in the last 18 months, prices on the types of chemicals in which Yorkshire specialises remain under pressure. Lower prices particularly in dyes wiped £2.6 million off profits during the year. The pressure should ease after the merger of Bayer and Hoechst colour dyes businesses, but relief will not come quickly.

While this is beyond Yorkshire's control, it can exercise more self-help in the Americas. Profits here fell by £2.6 million during the year, and the process chemical business in the US need to lift volumes.

The strong US economy should assist Yorkshire in this during 1995, while its new capacity will come on stream in Leeds next year. The shares are now trading on a prospective p/e multiple in the low teens, which is not expensive for a high class company.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	1048-1047	May	1079-1077
May	1040-1039	Jul	1086-1073
Jul	1080-1048	Sep	1097-1093
Sep	1059-1057	Dec	1110-1108
Dec	1061-1059		
Mar	1069-1066	Volume: 5326	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	3052-3045	Nov	2945-2935
May	3020-3015	Jan	2930-2910
Jul	2967-2965	Mar	2920-2900
Sep	2946-2940	Volume: 7010	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	344.5-42.5
Spot: 407.5		Mar	341.5-38.5
May	–401.0-00.0	May	341 4-36.0
Aug	382.7-82.3	Aug	339.3-33.6
Oct	350.0-49.5	Volume: 1373	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on February 20

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	84.06	121.62	121.70
(+/–)	+0.02	+2.18	+0.41
Eng/Wales:	84.12	121.74	121.49
(+/–)	+0.02	+2.14	+0.35
(%)	–12.0	+7.0	+6.0
Scotland:	82.07	121.17	123.68
(+/–)	–1.49	+2.32	+0.95
(%)	–30.0	+2.0	+8.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.20	-0.20
Brent 15 day (Apr)	17.00	(n/c)
Brent 15 day (May)	16.90	+0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	18.65	(n/a)
W Texas Intermediate (May)	18.45	(n/a)

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas 15	B: 172 (n/c)	O: 174 (n/c)	
Gasoil EEC	147 (n/c)	148 (+1)	
Non EEC 1H Mar	148 (n/c)	149 (n/c)	
Non EEC 1H Apr	149 (n/c)	151 (+1)	
3.5 Fuel Oil	107 (+1)	109 (+1)	
Naphtha	171 (+2)	172 (+2)	

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Mar	144.50-44.75	Jun	147.00-47.25
Apr	146 50-46.75	Jul	148.25-48.75
May	147.00-47.25	Vol: 11307	

BRENT (6.00pm)

Apr	17.00-17.01	Jul	16.74-16.77
May	16.88 BID	Aug	16.69 BID
Jun	16.84 SLR	Vol: 26631	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	108.60	Mar	103.25
May	110.10	May	104.75
Jul	111.20	Sep	97.00
Sep	98.70	Nov	99.25
Nov	99.65	Jan	101.00
Volume: 512		Volume: 208	

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Apr	284.0	281 9
May	315.0	312.0
Jun	unq	unq
	Volume: 81	

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Mar 113.75-114.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Feb 95	2028	2028	2020
Mar 95	2048	2030	2033
Apr 95	2060	2030	2031
Jul 95	1800	1785	1783

Vol. 198 lots — Open Interest: 3910

Index 2009 +9

(Official) (Volume prev day) — **LONDON METAL EXCHANGE** — **Rudolf Wolff**

	Cash:	3mths:	Vol:
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2890.0-2891.0	2893.0-2884.0	108562$
Lead ($/tonne)	589.00-590.00	606.00-607.00	182375
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1040.0-1041.0	1064.5-1065.0	439775
Tin ($/tonne)	5510.0-5520.0	5590.0-5595.0	22045
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1917.0-1918.0	1948.5-1949.5	1355800
Nickel ($/tonne)	8430.0-8440.0	8580.0-8590.0	59280

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Mar 95	3015.0	3034.0	3005.0	3027.0	10623
Previous open interest: 69104	Jun 95	3019.0	3036.5	3014.0	3035.0	177
FT-SE 250	Mar 95	3420.0	3420.0	3420.0	3420.0	110
Previous open interest: 4113	Jun 95	3441.0	3441.0	3441.0	3441.0	110
Three Month Sterling	Mar 95	93.03	93.06	93.02	93.06	7374
Previous open interest: 456557	Jun 95	92.27	92.31	92.25	92.30	14574
	Sep 95	91.78	91.82	91.76	91.82	7288
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 95				93.67	0
Previous open interest: 2487	Jun 95	93.17	93.17	93.17	93.19	10
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 95	94.86	94.86	94.84	94.84	15191
Previous open interest: 78230	Jun 95	94.50	94.51	94.44	94.44	45082
Long Gilt	Mar 95	101-08	101-09	100-30	101-01	40097
Previous open interest: 93809	Jun 95	101-14	101-14	101-05	101-06	5090
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 95	109.34	109.40	109.33	109.37	884
	Jun 95	108.60	108.62	108.56	108.60	2854
German Gov Bd Bund	Mar 95	90.84	90.86	90.38	90.45	111061
Previous open interest: 224917	Jun 95	90.12	90.12	89.86	89.94	14875
Three month ECU	Mar 95	93.78	93.79	93.73	93.76	1433
Previous open interest: 25183	Jun 95	93.26	93.26	93.22	93.24	1105
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 95	95.99	96.05	95.99	96.01	3894
Previous open interest: 49208	Jun 95	95.69	95.70	95.63	95.65	2567
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 95	99.80	99.85	98.85	98.90	49474
Previous open interest: 53989	Jun 95	99.40	98.40	97.80	97.84	1104

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6%. Finance Hse 7

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6%. Low 4½. Week fixed: 6¼

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⅝ ; 3 mth 6½ . Sell: 2 mth 6¼ ; 3 mth: 6¼ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6¼–6⅛	6⅛–6	6–5⅞	6–5¾	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅝–6½	6⅛–6¼	6⅛–6⅛	7⅛–7⅛	7⅛–7¼
Interbank:	6⅝–6½	6⅛–6¼	6⅛–6⅛	7⅛–7⅛	7⅛–7⅛

Overnight: open 6¼, close 4¼ .

Local Authority Deps:	6½	n/a	6⅛	7⅛	7⅛
Sterling CDs:	6¼–6⅛	6⅛–6¼	6⅛–6¼	7⅛–7¼	7¼–7¾
Dollar CDs:	5.98	n/a	6.15	6.40	6.90
Building Society CDs:	6⅛–6¼	6¼–6⅛	6¼–6⅛	7⅛–7¼	7¼–7⅛

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Jan 31, 1995 Agreed rates Feb 26, 1995 to Mar 25, 1995 Scheme III: 7.87%. Reference rate Dec 31, 1994 to Jan 31, 1995 Scheme IV & V: 6.624%.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	6⅛–5⅝	6¼–5⅛	6¼–6	6⅛–6¼	5¼–4¼
Deutschemark:	4⅝–4⅛	5–4¾	5–4⅞	5⅛–4⅞	5¼–4¼
French Franc:	5⅞–5⅝	5¼–5¼	5⅛–5⅛	6¼–6	6–5
Swiss Franc:	3⅜–3⅛	3⅜–3⅛	3⅝–3½	4¼–4	4½–3½
Yen:	2⅛–2⅛	2⅛–2⅛	2⅛–2⅛	2⅛–2⅛	2⅛–1⅝

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $379.00-379.40 **Close:** $378.40-378.90 **High:** $379.20-379.70
Low: $377.80-378.30 **AM:** $379.00 **PM:** $378.65

Krugerrand: $381.00-383.00 (£241.00-243.00)

Platinum: $417.00 (£264.15) **Silver:** $4.77 (£3.015) **Palladium:** $157.00 (£99.45)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Feb 21	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.6090-2.6272	2.6239-2.6272	¼-¼pr	1¼-¼pr
Brussels	47.92-48.29	48.18-48.29	6-3pr	18-13pr
Copenhagen	9.1950-9.2450	9.2310-9.2450	¼-¼pr	2¼-1¼pr
Dublin	1.0017-1.0048	1.0017-1.0043	9-6pr	16-12pr
Frankfurt	2.3271-2.3588	2.3356-2.3388	¼-¼pr	1-¼pr
Lisbon	241.23-243.15	242.52-243.15	42-51ds	182-201ds
Madrid	203.51-204.78	204.48-204.78	24-32ds	94-107ds
Milan	2535.70-2557.50	2554.20-2557.50	3-5ds	12-15ds
Montreal	2.2052-2.2161	2.2125-2.2156	0.20-0.29ds	0.46-0.59ds
New York	1.5770-1.5838	1.5820-1.5830	0.07-0.05pr	0.24-0.17pr
Oslo	10.2380-10.2960	10.2810-10.2960	1¼-4pr	4-2½pr
Paris	8.1050-8.1560	8.1420-8.1560	¼-¼pr	2-1¼pr
Stockholm	11.5180-11.5940	11.5600-11.5940	¼-1¼ds	3¼-4¼ds
Tokyo	153.53-154.08	153.81-154.08	¼-¼pr	1¼-1¼pr
Vienna	16.39-16.52	16.39-16.48	2¾-1¾pr	7¾-6pr
Zurich	1.9686-1.9766	1.9757-1.9766	¼-¼pr	1¼-1¼pr

Source: Extel — *Premium = pr. Discount = ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3486-1.3495
Austria	10.41-10.42
Belgium (Comi	30.45-30.48
Canada	1.3995-1.4000
Denmark	5.8425-5.8480
France	5.1520-5.1540
Germany	1.4785-1.4790
Hong Kong	7.7300-7.7310
Ireland	1.5736-1.5751
Italy	1617.75-1617.87
Japan	97.29-97.34
Malaysia	2.5535-2.5545
Netherlands	1.6578-1.6583
Norway	6.5088-6.5108
Portugal	153.36-153.46
Singapore	1.4520-1.4530
Spain	129.33-129.43
Sweden	7.3141-7.3241
Switzerland	1.2500-1.2505

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5778-1.5804
Australia dollar	2.1274-2.1298
Bahrain dinar	0.5905-0.6025
Brazil real*	1.3269-1.3310
Cyprus pound	0.72-0.73
Finland markka	7.180-7.296
Greece drachma	364.50-371.50
Hong Kong dollar	12.1995-12.2088
India rupee	49.16-50.12
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4665-0.4765
Malaysia ringgit	4.0296-4.0338
Mexico peso	n/a
New Zealand dollar	2.4885-2.4920
Pakistan rupee	48.35 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8725-5.9985
Singapore dollar	2.2913-2.2936
S Africa rand (fin)	6.0162-6.0512
S Africa rand (com)	5.6078-5.6146
U A E dirham	5.750-5.874

Barclays Bank GTS + Lloyds Bank

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	194	Legal & Gn	447
ASDA Gp	4,400	Lloyds Bk	5,400
Abbey Natl	1,200	MEPC	221
Allid Dom	2,400	Marks Spr	4,700
Argyll Gp	3,000	NatWst Bk	11,000
Arjo Wiggn	2,000	Nat Power	4,300
AB Foods	91	Nth Wst W	738
BAA	7,400	P & O	1,500
BAT Inds	4,200	Pearson	3,100
BOC	777	PowerGen	3,000
BP	6,500	Prudential	1,900
BTR	4,300	RMC	113
BT	5,800	RTZ	2,300
Bk of Scot	3,900	Rank Org	1,600
Barclays	1,400	Reckitt Col	3,700
Bass	751	Reedint	1,100
Blue Circle	604	Reed Intl	986
Boots	926	Rentokil	1,300
Bowater	2,100	Reuters	5,300
Brit Aero	615	Rolls Royce	2,100
Brit Airways	5,900	Ryt Ins	1,000
Brit Gas	6,900	Ryl Bk Scot	590
Brit Steel	9,100	Sainsbury	2,000
Burmah Cstl	372	Schroders	40
Cable Wire	1,500	Scot & New	2,700
Cadbury	2,800	Scot Power	4,000
Caradon	1,000	Sears	7,600
Carlton Cms	548	Svrn Trent	315
Cm Union	644	Shell Trans	2,300
Courtaulds	429	Siebe	457
De La Rue	2,300	SmKl Bch	4,700
Eastern Elec	601	Smith Nph	2,500
Enterpr Oil	508	Sthern Elec	448
Forte	2,600	Std Chartd	1,100
GKN	587	Sun Allince	362
GRE	3,300	TI Gp	901
GUS	593	TSB	928
Gen Acc	677	Tesco	2,900
Gen Elec	2,000	Thames W	1,400
Glaxo	2,900	Thm EMI	369
Granada	2,300	Tomkins	4,000
Grand Met	2,100	Unilever	2,100
Guinness	1,400	Utd Biscs	902
HSBC	2,600	Vodafone	7,000
Hanson	4,800	Warburg (SG)	438
ICI	1,500	Wellcome	1,900
Inchcape	1,800	Whitbread	2,700
Kingfisher	504	Wilms Hld	2,500
Ladbroke	1,800	Wolseley	1,300
Land Secs	603	Zeneca	975

WALL STREET

	Feb 21 midday	Feb 17 close
AMP Inc	74½	74½
AMR Corp	59⅝	58
AT & T	50⅝	50½
Abbott Labs	34	34½
Advanced Micro	29½	30½
Aetna Life	52	51½
Ahmanson (HF)	17⅜	17½
Air Prod & Chem	47⅞	47½
Albertson's	30½	30½
Alcan Aluminm	25	24½
Alco Standard	66½	66½
Allied Signal	38⅝	37½
Alum Co of Am	81½	80½
Amax Gold Inc	5	4½
Amerada Hess	47½	48
Amer Brands	37½	37½
Amer El Power	34	34
Amer Express	33½	33½
Amer Genl Corp	31½	31
Amer Home Pr	71½	71½
Amer Intl	100½	100½
Amer Stores	25⅝	25½
Amerltech	42⅝	41½
Amoco	58½	58½
Anheuser-Busch	55½	55
Apple Computer	41½	42½
Archer Daniels	19	18½
Armco	6½	6½
Armstrng Wrld	46½	46
Asarco	38½	38½
Ashland Oil	32½	32½
Atl Richfield	107½	106½
Atlas Data Pro	61½	61½
Avery Dennison	37½	37½
Avon Products	57½	57½
Baker Hughes	19	18½
Baltim Gas & El	24½	24½
Banc One	28⅝	28½
BankAmerica	47½	47½
Bank of NY	32½	32½
Bankers Tr NY	62⅝	62
Barnett Banks	44½	43½
Bausch & Lomb	33½	33½
Baxter Intl	31	31
Becm Dickinsn	51½	51½
Bell Atlantic	51½	52
BellSouth	58½	58½
Black & Decker	25½	25
Block (H&R)	36½	36½
Boeing	49½	49
Boise Cascade	30⅝	30
Borden Inc	12½	12½
Bristol Myrs Sq	61½	61½
Browning Ferris	31½	31½
Brunswick	19½	19½
Burlington Nthn	55½	55½
CBS	61½	60½
CNA Financial	71½	71½
CPC Intl	53½	53½
CSX	76½	76½
Campbell Soup	44½	45
Can Pacific	14	14
Cpl Cities ABC	85½	84½
Carolina Pwr	27½	27½
Caterpillar	52½	52½
Central & sw	24½	24½
Champion Intl	41½	41½
Chase Manhat	34½	34½
Chemical Bk	40½	39½
Chevron Corp	47½	47
Chrysler	45½	45½
Chubb Corp	78½	78½
Cigna Corp	75½	75½
Citicorp	42½	42½
Clorox	59½	59½
Coastal Corp	28½	28½
Coca Cola	53½	53½
Colgate-Palmolive	62½	61½
Columbia Gas	25½	26
Compaq Comp	36	36½
Comp Ass Int	55½	55½
Conagra	33	33
Conrail	56½	57
Cons Edison	27½	27½
Cons Nat Gas	36½	36½
Cooper Inds	38½	38½
Corning Inc	31½	31½
Crown Cork	42½	43
Dana Corp	23½	23½
Davton Hudson	74½	73½
Deere	76½	75½
Delta Air Lines	56½	58
Deluxe Corp	27½	27
Detroit Edison	29½	29½
Digital Equip	35½	35½
Dillard Dept St	27½	27½
Disney (Walt)	52½	53½
Dominion Res	38½	38
Donnelley (RR)	34	34
Dover Corp	60½	60½
Dow Chemical	64½	64½
Dow Jones	35½	35½
Dresser	20½	20½
Duke Power	39½	38½
Dun & Bradstreet	50½	51½
Du Pont	55½	55½
Eastman Kodak	50½	49½
Eaton Corp	47½	47½
Emerson Elec	65½	65½
Engelhard Corp	20½	20½
Enron Corp	32½	31½
Entergy	22½	22½
Ethyl Corp	10½	10½
Exxon	63½

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Shaken . . . and stirred

I REALLY wouldn't wish one on my worst enemy, but there is nothing quite like an earthquake to wake, and shake, up a conference. Last week, more than 500 delegates, politicians and ambassadors, including Oliver Miles, Our Man in Greece, attended a two-day conference on "Greece and the Balkans Business Co-operation" in Thessaloniki, northern Greece. For some, that's riveting and the stuff of bedside reading. The day started early enough. Lunch was a grand occasion. But some heads were nodding as George Romaios, Greece's Alternate Minister of National Economy, got into his stride, waxing about a transport and telecommunications network in the region. Come 3.17pm and dust and bits of plaster started to fall from the ceiling. An earthquake measuring between 4.7 and 5 on the Richter scale was in the making! My shaken, rattled and rolled colleague reports that, after intitial confusion, the speaker carried on as if nothing had happened. "But, everybody did suddenly seem to be more awake and alert," he mused.

Magnum force

FOUND! One magnum of Krug 1975. After yesterday's note about the hunt for a Krug magnum, Keith Waller, vice-president, private banking division, Chase Manhattan Bank, rose from his breakfast table, looked in his cupboard, and — hey presto — drew out a 1975 Krug magnum. "I've had it for 15 years and planned to drink it in the summer." Sensitive price negotiations are now under way.



"It's a new game from CentreGold"

Credit due

THERE are four girls at Credit Suisse who may never need to work again. Typists in a syndicate, two of them temps, were among nine winners of Saturday's National Lottery which scooped them £987,022. "The two temps are not expected back at work. The other two have been given the week off," said a bank spokesman who still needs to work.

Cit collective

IT MIGHT not be *Mastermind*, but it is an amusing way to while away the lunch hour. The new fad in town is hurling collective nouns around. Such as:
A squeal of Lloyd's Names
A float of dawn raiders
A gloat of privatised industry chairmen
A nod and wink of insider dealers
A poisoned chalice of chancellors
A sillimetre of Eurocrats (fruit and veg department).

Any more ideas? Please write.

All you need . . .

IF YOU are 34 and a day, a minority shareholder in a business, or have a turnover 1p shy of £1 million then you're *not* wanted at the Young Entrepreneurs Organisation. The London branch of YEO is anxious to increase its membership from 15 — but only if you are under 34, own your own business and can boast a turnover of more than £1 million.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Britain against the world in UN employment debate

Dole queues are shorter, but UK job policies are under fire, says **Philip Bassett**



Little Johnnie will again be the only one out of step today. The latest searching international study on jobs and unemployment across the world prescribes solutions with which most countries will find it relatively easy to live — except the UK.

British ministers wedded to the notion of ever-deregulated labour markets as the way to promote jobs will take pride at being out of line. They are likely to shrug off the interventionist prescriptions of the report by the United Nations International Labour Office, and to point to the sustained and unexpectedly early fall in unemployment in the UK over the past two years, and signs now of increasing job growth, as testament to the success of the Government's labour market policies.

Though ministers claim that some countries, such as Spain, are coming more into line with the Government's insistence on deregulation, most employment analysts acknowledge that the gap between Britain's approach and the policies of most countries is wide.

That gap is likely to be reinforced by the UN world social summit in Copenhagen, for which ministers and job specialists from around the globe will be arriving in Denmark from the end of next week.

Michael Portillo, Britain's highly deregulatory Employment Secretary, who only this week condemned "tricksters" pushing "schemes, ruses or some clever-clever ideas" to solve unemployment, is unlikely to head for Denmark, and his deputy, Ann Widdecombe, may well be supplanted by Baroness Chalker, Overseas Development Minister — though John Major is expected at a UN summit to close the conference.

The free-market Mr Portillo is unlikely to warm to the summit outcome. Its draft conclusion commits UN countries "to enabling all people to attain secure and sustainable livelihoods through freely-chosen productive employment and work, and to maintain the goal of full employment", as well as to achieving equality, promoting social integration and eradicating poverty.

Appearing on a trade union platform at a conference to promote full employment — a concept with which Labour leaders, let alone Conservatives, are uneasy — saw Mr Portillo's predecessor, David Hunt, moved from his job, and the social summit's planned embrace of the idea may be more than UK employment ministers can stomach.

Equally so with today's ILO report, since re-adoption of the goal of full employment is its central policy prescription. Michel Hansenne, the ILO's Director-General, says that, although the post-war universal commitment to full employment has been eroded, "it is important and timely to revive that commitment".

He says: "Its weakening has led to worsening employment conditions and foreclosed national and international actions that could have made a difference. Its revival will provide the basis for the renewed international co-operation that is so essential for solving the employment crisis."

The ILO report is timed to help to set the agenda for Copenhagen, which the ILO sees as "a unique and timely opportunity for the international community to reaffirm its commitment to full employment and to signal the importance of launching new initiatives to deal with the mounting global employment problem and attendant social ills".

Conservatives tend to dismiss the ILO as a bleeding-heart body. The ILO officials who wrote today's report have tried to counter such a view by beginning not from the ILO's traditional starting-point of social justice, but from hard-edged economics. "The unemployment problem is the No 1 issue of the day in terms of social policy," says Eddy Lee, the principal author, "and the ILO has been relatively silent."

Clearly trying to place the study in the mainstream line of recent international jobs analyses from the OECD and the European Commission, the ILO's report team uses extensive research, including CBI work on long-term unemployment, to demonstrate the "formidable" challenge of restoring full employment around the world. While acknowledging that there is "no simple or painless solution" to unemployment, the ILO rejects the "defeatist" view that nothing can be done.

"The current employment



Portillo: [illegible] on record

situation represents an enormous waste of resources and an unacceptable level of human suffering," it says. "It has led to growing social exclusion, rising inequality between and within nations, and a host of social ills. It is thus both morally unacceptable and economically irrational."

In line with its claim to be the first study to tackle jobs and unemployment on a world basis — last year's OECD *Jobs Study* looked only at major industrialised countries — much of the ILO work concerns emerging countries, and the impact on jobs of globalisation and changing technology and trade patterns.

While it charts "consistently spectacular" growth in South-East Asia, it is gloomy about the economic marginalisation of Africa, and the "appalling" growth of poverty and long-term unemployment in the transition economies of East and Central Europe since the break-up of the Soviet Union.

In spite of this global focus, it is the report's policy prescriptions for jobs in industrialised nations that are likely to provoke most argument — especially from UK ministers, since it broadly rejects the deregulatory labour market approach that the Government has followed since 1979.

The ILO urges a "co-ordinated expansionary strategy" for producing economic growth sufficient to bring Europe and other industrialised countries back to full employment, including co-ordinated reduction of short-term interest rates, a cut in employers' social contributions and direct budgetary stimulation, such as lower taxes or increased public spending — though it accepts that the convergence terms of the Maastricht treaty leave European countries little freedom over budgetary policy.

However, aside from its overall prescription of the re-adoption of full employment as the overriding international economic goal and the "primary objective" of policies on global trade, finance and investment, the principal impact on Britain of the ILO report is likely to be its rejection of labour market deregulation.

Citing the UK and, to some extent, New Zealand as coming closest to a full "experiment" in deregulation, the study argues that "in neither . . . has deregulation resulted unambiguously in improved labour market performance".

It says that "a purely (or mainly) deregulatory route to greater labour market flexibility will not be a panacea" for unemployment and "is likely to involve a trade-off in terms of greater inequality and poverty".

Deregulation involves "sacrifice" of what the ILO lists as "considerable benefits which flow from an appropriately regulated labour market", including the likelihood of training, and increasing productive efficiency through competition incentives that flow more from product market than labour market policies.

The ILO believes that the impact on jobs of minimum wages is "insignificant"; that strong workplace employee bodies will lead to greater productivity; and that international labour standards, such as those from Brussels opposed by the UK, are vital if globalisation is to proceed "benignly".

Little, if any, of this will be music to the Government's ears — though most will be unexceptional to most ILO countries. Copenhagen will sound further tunes that British ministers will not like.

None of it, however, will divert the Government from its particular conduct of the labour market. With British unemployment now down by close on 600,000, or 20 per cent, since its peak at the end of 1992, at the same time as it is continuing to rise in many similar industrialised countries, ministers will rest on their record, regardless of how out of step international scepticism may view them.



ANTHONY HARRIS

US slowdown: two views called Alan

The recent rally in the US bond market reflects a growing Wall Street view that the Fed has got it right: the unsustainably rapid growth seen in 1994 will end in a soft landing. Some statistics have been suggesting as much for the past three months, and the most recent inflation figures have been encouraging; but what seems to have encouraged investors most is an assessment from a recent recruit to the Fed Board of Governors, Alan S Blinder. The risks for the economy, he announced, now looked more symmetrical than for some time. If he spoke for the Board as a whole, that would be a clear sign that the next move in rates was now as likely to be down as up.

But Blinder is no. the most influential Alan on the Fed Board: so the markets will have listened even more closely than usual to Alan Greenspan, the Chairman, when he gave his Humphrey-Hawkins evidence on the economy to Congress. They will no doubt have been as frustrated as usual: Greenspan is a past master at a folksy frankness that gives away nothing. But ambiguity will not still the suspicion that he is much less relaxed about the prospect than his colleague. Not perhaps Alan the Terrible, as Robert Brusca of Nikko Securities christened him this week (in contrast to Alan the Soft), but at the very least Alan the Unready.

There is good reason for hesitation. Only two slowdown indicators are wholly clear: the steep fall in house sales and housing starts, down some 15 per cent from their peak, and the renewed airline price warfare. This is now so desperate that the operators are risking strife with their own ticket agents. It has already led to ordering delays and layoffs in the aircraft factories. Other signs fall into the sigh-of-relief class. Base metal prices have relapsed by more than 10 per cent, but are still hugely up on an annual measure. The steel industry, which tried to raise prices 10 per cent in January, is yielding to customer resistance, but prices are still up.

Most indicators, though, show an economy levelling out on a high plateau. Retail sales have barely inched up during the last quarter, but are some 8 per cent up on 1994 in real terms. Car sales are short of Detroit hopes, but still near a record, as are most consumer durables. Investment spending and exports remain strong. It is all a little like measuring your children's height monthly on the bathroom door: informative, but hard to extrapolate. It is too early to be sure whether demand has turned sluggish, or is simply pausing for breath, as it usually does at some stage during a strong US expansion.

Where facts are hard to read, theory is the fall-back guide, and both Greenspan (a real-economy man) and his monetarist colleagues can find reason for doubt. The Fed's measure of capacity utilisation still shows rising strain; so do anecdotes of shortages of containers and the ships to move them. Commercial bank lending growth accelerated to a 7.6 per cent growth rate in the latest three months, and finance company credit (mainly to consumers) to a 13.5 per cent rate in the quarter ended last December. No. [illegible] of this suggests a soft landing.

All the sar[illegible]ne bond market looks optimistic, and could be justified. Industrial capacity is an estimate, not an objective measure; and in the US, as in this country, it seems more elastic than past experience might suggest. Commercial credit is downright ambiguous: rising borrowing may mean expansion, but can equally reflect disappointing sales, as unwanted stocks have to be financed. Consumer confidence has softened sharply since the turn of the year, and borrowing may follow.

The biggest imponderable is the impact of economic stringency in America's two biggest export markets, Mexico and Canada. Canada is soft, and Latin American demand may well have fallen off a cliff for the time being. The odds, then, seem to favour the Blinder view. But it is still a matter of odds: backing the US market recovery is a measured risk.

Joanna Pitman says South Korea favours UK investment

The Samsung octopus spreads its tentacles into Britain

First-time visitors arriving at South Korea's International Airport in Seoul are invariably astonished to discover that they have been driven into town on a road built by Samsung, are staying in a hotel owned by Samsung, make calls on a Samsung telephone via a telecom network owned by Samsung, watch a Samsung television, eat food processed by Samsung and write letters home on paper made by Samsung.

In their leisure hours they may visit a Samsung department store, glance at a Samsung-owned newspaper, watch a professional Samsung football team in action or visit a Samsung-owned museum.

The Samsung Group is one of South Korea's industrial conglomerates known as *chaebol*, set up in the 1930s and modelled on Japan's giant industrial groupings. They incorporate a vast spread of industrial and business activities covering high technology, heavy industry, manufacturing, service industries and cultural and social activities.

The *chaebol* have recently become particularly relevant to Britain because we may soon be able to sample the enormous ranges of Samsung products and services, or those of Hyundai or Goldstar, without having to fly to Seoul.

Last October, Samsung Electronics announced the largest direct investment by a South Korean company in Britain with the development of a £600 million complex in Teesside which will begin producing personal computer monitors and microwave ovens in August and, from early 1997, fax machines, colour display tubes and personal computers.



Samsung factories manufacture a vast range of goods from paper to electronics

The investment, which is expected to bring more than 3,000 new jobs to the region, is only one of a variety of direct investments in Britain made in the past few years by component companies within Samsung, the fourteenth largest industrial group in the world. The first was in 1986, when Samsung Electronics put £17 million into a colour TV manufacturing plant in Billingham.

Other South Korean industrial groups are also looking to Britain. Daewoo Electronics, part of the Daewoo *chaebol*, has put £35 million into a manufacturing plant in Antrim, Northern Ireland, which employs 700 people producing video cassette recorders.

In 1988, Goldstar Electric, another of the top four *chaebol* and ranked by *Fortune* magazine as the 31st largest electronics maker worldwide, invested £8 million in a manufacturing plant, in Tyne and Wear, which now produces 200,000 microwave ovens a year.

For South Korean investors the language factor weighs heavily in favour of Britain as opposed to Germany, France or other EU countries. As long as the South Korean economy continues to grow and the *chaebol* continue to follow that fashionable if expensive strategy of going global, South Korean investments in Britain are likely to continue.

Given that the Japanese investment wave brought karaoke to our pubs, Sumo wrestling to our television screens and a huge choice of dried seaweeds to our corner shops, it will not be long before gourmet trendsetters are agonising over the choice of kimchi pickles for their dinner party tables.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD ■
01855 258 763

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gradual Amer	159.80	169.10	...	0.32
Gradual Equity	225.60	239.40	- 0.40	2.05
Gradual Euro	189.50	200.90	- 0.30	0.50
Gradual Fixed Int	109.10	113.30	...	4.64
Gradual Gilt	72.40	74.64	- 0.20	5.64
Gradual Japan	154.60	163.50	+ 0.70	..

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 553 231

General Acc	509.10	541.60	+ 0.50	2.97
General Inc	449.60	477.70	+ 0.50	2.97
UK Growth Acc	343.10	365.10	+ 0.30	3.04
UK Growth Inc	294.90	313.50	+ 0.20	3.04
Higher Inc Acc	646.40	685.90	+ 0.60	4.18
Higher Inc Inc	374.70	398.70	+ 0.50	4.18
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	182.70	192.90	- 0.20	6.00
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	89.80	95.60	- 0.11	6.00
Nth America	263.30	280.20	+ 0.70	..
Far East	332.50	343.10	+ 2.10	0.36
Europe	353.30	294.60	+ 2.10	0.83
Bth Equity	67.80	72.26	+ 0.09	3.25
Bth Fixed Ints Acc	97.60	103.90	+ 0.10	4.93
Bth Fixed Ints Inc	71.62	76.20	+ 0.05	4.93
Global Opps	80.50	85.64	+ 0.20	0.36
Balanced Acc	51.83	55.14†	+ 0.06	3.19
Balanced Inc	50.56	53.79†	- 0.05	3.19

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

High Income				
Gilt & Fixed Int	136.30	134.10	- 0.10	7.96
High Inc Equity	154.00	164.70†	- 0.10	4.78
Worldwide Bond	260.90	277.20†	- 0.20	5.48
Capital Growth				81
American Growth	275.00	294.50†		
Asia Pacific	295.20	314.00		
Assets & Earnings	245.90	261.60	- 0.60	3.07
Comdty & Energy	95.65	101.80		.13
Euro Capital Inc	129.80	138.20	- 0.50	.70
(Accum Units)	139.75	148.30	- 0.40	.70
General	215.40	229.10†	- 1.00	2.37
Japan	112.70	120.50	+ 0.20	..
Mastertrust	132.40	141.80	- 0.30	1.84
UK Growth Dist	111.70	119.50	- 0.40	3.05
US Emerging Cos	131.30	140.40		
Income & Growth	262.90	280.10	- 1.10	3.24
Ethical	63.89	67.97	- 0.13	3.16
International	107.10	113.90	- 0.10	1.02
Dividend & Growth	57.24	60.89†	- 0.10	4.61
Global Gwth & Sec	66.30	70.68	- 0.13	2.56

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

UK Small Cos	£16.43	£16.71		

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 388

Amer Inc & Growth	43.39	45.04	+ 0.11	0.69
Cash	50.47	50.47		5.80
Emerging Mkts	63.90	67.72	- 0.13	0.05
European	109.30	114.20†	- 0.20	..
Exempt	931.20	£10.91†		1.86
Extra Income #	45.74	48.91	- 0.05	6.15
Far East Emg Eco	106.40	112.90	- 0.40	0.55
Fixed Interest #	82.53	83.66	- 0.01	8.74
Fund Inv Tst	163.50	172.00	- 0.60	0.98
Japan	163.50	171.50	+ 1.10	..
Latin American	45.85	48.15	+ 0.29	1.61
Pacific	67.50	71.33	- 0.16	0.37
Property Share	59.85	62.82†	+ 0.15	2.17
UK Emerging Cos	60.15	63.14†	- 0.07	1.06
UK Growth	42.59	44.40	- 0.07	2.64
Abn World Port #	64.42	68.53	- 0.01	2.36
Ethical	58.75	62.72	- 0.01	2.80
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	48.96	48.96	- 0.14	7.65

ABSOR UNIT TRUSTS LTD
01201 849 333

British Growth	65.63	69.82†	- 0.20	3.09
British Income	76.05	80.91†	- 0.25	3.79
Select Portfolio	80.85	86.01†	- 0.22	..

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
01452 305 958

Annby Income	70.73	75.04	- 0.03	2.60
Income Builder Inc	64.34	68.45	- 0.09	3.04

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
IFA dlg: 01793 510 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514

Balanced Trusts:				
Growth & Income	216.30	231.20	- 0.60	3.37
Capital	378.60	404.00	- 0.30	2.05
Balanced	634.70	677.80†	- 1.20	2.93
Accumulator	511.73	512.53	- 2.00	3.24
Income Trusts				
American Income	46.47	49.67†	+ 0.12	3.58
High Income	367.60	392.90	+ 1.10	3.93
Equity Income	207.30	221.50†	+ 0.50	3.76
High Yield	222.60	237.90	- 0.40	3.65
Gilt Securities	32.40	34.21†	- 0.04	6.20
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	140.70	150.40	- 0.40	0.47
European Growth	12.95	35.14	- 0.25	0.01
International	146.80	156.90†	+ 0.40	0.21
Japan	167.60	179.90†	+ 0.40	0.01
Pacific	353.00	377.30	+ 0.10	0.01
Spec of America	411.50	439.80†	+ 0.60	0.53
Worldw Mixed Inv	44.95	48.05	+ 0.09	0.25
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Values	484.70	518.10†	+ 1.50	2.46
Conv & Gilt	40.35	43.13†	- 0.11	5.38
Smaller Cos	157.80	168.60†	- 1.10	1.32
Sm Smaller Cos	150.30	160.60	- 1.20	1.51
Recovery	137.70	146.50	- 0.10	1.92
Med Mkt & Cdty	149.40	159.00	+ 0.70	0.79
Oseas Earnings	323.90	346.20†	- 0.30	1.95
Technology	155.70	166.40	+ 0.40	0.01
UK Special Sits	418.70	447.50†	+ 0.20	1.94

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01293 526 911

Crncrd Def Pens	95.54	99.26		3.04
Founder Pens Pens	59.89	62.22	....	1.44

BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 600 0033

Capital	66.51	70.75†	+ 0.09	1.98
International	61.07	64.97†		

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
0131 222 4242

America	365.70	387.50		
Bond	108.50	114.20†	- 0.20	7.25
Brit Smlr Cos	92.50	98.40†	- 0.30	1.91
Conv & Gen #	61.56	65.49†	- 0.05	5.68
Europe	212.90	226.50	- 0.90	0.63
Euro Smlr Cos	99.53	102.90	- 0.40	0.61
Income Gwth	330.40	351.50	+ 0.10	4.52
Japan	281.80	298.90	+ 1.10	..
Latin American	56.77	62.52	- 0.07	..
Pacific	95.16	102.30	- 0.10	1.53
UK Smlr Cos	43.65	52.02†	- 0.16	1.44
Japan Fd	642.40	681.70†	+ 1.30	..
Mngd Fd	163.60	174.00	+ 0.10	3.24

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
0171 489 8573

Gnt & Dvnds	258.20	282.30	- 3.90	1.31
Capital Gwth	104.20	109.70	- 0.60	2.45
Wrldw Opps	170.20	179.20	- 0.60	0.44

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
0181 594 5544

Balanced Trusts				
Bal Inv Fd Inc	320.80	334.20	- 1.70	3.26
European Bd Inc	87.34	90.45†	- 0.05	7.92
Exempt	68.60	74.25	- 0.21	4.48
Financial	69.72	74.04	- 0.21	2.57
500.0	414.40	443.20†	- 1.10	2.72
General	257.10	275.00	- 0.60	2.94
Property	246.90	264.10		6.58
Trustee	166.70	180.40		2.65
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.80	100.80†	+ 0.10	5.65
Extra Income	111.60	119.30	- 0.40	4.36
Gilt & Fxd Int	55.20	57.05†	- 0.11	9.04
Income	485.80	519.60†	- 1.30	4.40
Income Builder	84.09	152.69	- 0.40	4.81
Intl Income	58.61	62.35	+ 0.02	3.98
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	108.50	116.60†	- 0.36	2.66
Leisure	113.20	121.10	- 0.50	2.72
Recovery	386.10	411.90	- 0.40	3.05
Smlr Cos Inc	41.66	44.58	- 0.06	2.17
Special Sits	262.50	280.70	- 0.90	1.77
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	122.10	129.80		0.66
Asst Acc	222.80	238.60	+ 0.80	2.39
Asst Inc	136.90	145.70	+ 0.50	2.39
Euro Gwth Inc	143.70	152.50	- 0.70	1.62
(Accum Units)	153.70	163.20	- 0.80	1.62
Japan & Sec Inc	158.20	166.10	+ 0.40	..
(Accum Units)	158.60	168.00	+ 0.40	..
Japan Spec Sits	72.96	76.33	- 0.04	..
Unit Tech Inc	74.35	79.07	- 0.18	0.05
Worldwide	156.80	165.10†	- 0.40	1.02

BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD
0171 214 1004

American Growth	89.03	94.42	+ 0.18	..
Amer Smlr Cos	126.70	135.70	+ 0.30	..
Commodities	53.02	56.70	+ 0.05	5.70
Eastern	246.60	266.70	+ 1.00	0.10
Equity Income	83.04	88.13†	+ 0.09	4.90
European Growth	297.90	305.10	- 0.30	0.80
Europe	212.00	225.30	- 0.60	..
German Growth	74.47	79.01	+ 0.11	0.50
Global Bond	60.77	64.01†	- 0.04	6.20
Global Growth	116.70	124.40	+ 0.40	..
Japan Growth	188.40	201.00	+ 1.20	..
Japan Smaller	154.00	168.40	+ 0.60	..
Korea Trust	71.34	79.76	- 0.03	..
Portfolio	121.10	129.80†		1.89
(Accum Units)	222.80	236.80	+ 0.10	1.89
UK Growth	78.45	83.45	+ 0.04	2.20
UK Smaller Cos	79.79	85.33	- 0.21	1.89
Select Managers	70.07	75.05	- 0.03	1.10

BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
0171 236 5300

Intl Gwth Port Inc	69.63	74.07†	- 0.44	..
Special Oppor Inc	50.19	53.39†	+ 0.36	..

For Bramin Dolphin see GEM Dolphin

BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD
0141 223 6020

Balanced Growth	98.74	104.49	- 0.24	1.97
(Accum Units)	116.99	117.45	- 0.27	1.97
Smaller Cos	95.45	101.00	- 0.10	1.35
Higher Yield #	41.92	44.36†	- 0.13	4.76
American Gth Inc	69.35	73.39†		
European Growth	130.59	138.62	- 0.99	..
(Accum Units)	133.57	141.35	- 1.01	..
Global Bond Inc #	28.11	27.06	- 0.03	7.83
Mngd Pfolio Inc	39.46	41.74	+ 0.01	1.72
(Accum Units)	40.03	42.34	+ 0.01	1.72
Int Spec Opps	106.92	113.14	- 0.16	0.37
Pacific Gth	113.61	120.43	- 0.26	0.17
Formerly LAS				
UK General #	70.58	74.69	+ 0.07	3.73
(Accum Units) #	72.28	76.48	+ 0.09	3.73
Japan	55.64	58.87†	+ 0.11	..
Gilt & Fixed Int #	92.39	94.28†	- 0.23	7.49

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
0171 480 7218

Short Dated Gilt	64.78	65.62	- 0.02	5.24

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
0161 837 5080

Envisn	145.70	155.10	- 0.50	1.91
UK Growth	155.70	165.70†	- 0.60	2.56
UK Income	125.70	133.80	- 0.40	4.62

CANADA LIFE UNIT TST MGRS LTD
01707 651 122

Can Gen Dist	175.30	185.80†	+ 0.20	2.13
- do- Income Dist	105.16	111.40	- 0.10	4.49
(Accum Units)	317.20	336.30	- 0.19	4.49
Gilt & Fxd Int	39.27	40.57†	- 0.07	8.71

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
0161 236 5685 Enq 0161 236 5685 Dlg 0161 236 6362

American & Gen	148.80	158.10	+ 0.30	..
European Inc	75.05	79.36	- 0.19	0.60
Smaller Cos (4+1)	76.27	81.14	- 0.03	2.09
Growth	391.70	416.80†	+ 0.30	2.65
Income & Growth	376.40	400.50†	+ 0.20	4.21
(Accum Units)	537.00	571.30	+ 0.20	4.21
Japan & Gen	85.42	89.40	+ 0.38	..
Master Portfolio	106.04	(99.72)†	+16.00	2.08
(Accum Units)	£114.58	£118.97	+20.00	2.08
Special Sits	90.33	96.10†	+ 0.88	2.60
High Yield	£12.26	£12.66	....	4.67

For Capital House see Newton

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0700

Cazenove Portfolio	78.36	83.63	+ 0.03	2.62
American Portfolio	88.70	94.49	+ 0.17	1.23
European Portfolio	93.91	100.02	- 0.34	0.79
Japanese Portfolio	59.38	63.52†	+ 0.16	..
Pacific Portfolio	126.96	135.52	- 0.09	0.95
UK Inc & Growth	71.82	76.90	+ 0.03	3.45
Utility & Bond ...	53.92	54.54	+ 0.03	7.02

CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG
0171 588 1815

Inv Fund	627.75	633.45		4.88
Fed In Soc	147.85	148.20		9.78

CENTURY UNIT TRUSTS LTD
0171 332 5000

UK General Tst	58.22	63.00†	+ 0.62	3.15

CGE-CHARITIES OFFICIAL INV FD
0171 588 1815

Inc	618.67	626.52		4.98
Access	226.31	226.50		
Fixed Int Inc	120.20	120.42		9.83
Fixed Inv Acc	167.99	167.95		

CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD
0171 457 7667

Intl Growth	111.69	121.79		
UK Income	99.51	108.51		5.53

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5966

Berkeley Int	75.02	79.51		1.52
Berk Blo-Tech	36.92	39.86		
Accm Ethical Tst	145.48	153.14		0.73
City Fin Assets	83.74	87.81		1.32
City Fin America	85.27	89.76		
City Fin Intl	72.17	75.97		0.96
City Fin Japan	146.92	154.65†		
Friars Hse Cap	260.24	281.06†		1.75
Friars Hse Inc	182.46	198.38		4.25
Buckley Wdd Grth	116.13	123.54		0.09
Falconet Cap Gth	128.47	137.73		
Falconnaat Intl	142.01	151.07		
City Fin Pfilo Inc	51.55	54.84		4.41

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
01771 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300

Emerging Markets	51.03	54.14	+ 0.20	

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0800 373 393

American Gwth	55.59	59.45	+ 0.23	..
Allen Mngd Gwth	34.17	36.55	+ 0.06	0.47
Dragon Growth	67.41	66.75	+ 0.17	0.48
Equity High Inc	77.98	82.98	+ 0.05	4.25
(Accum Units)	104.69	111.55	+ 0.06	4.25
European Gwth	49.04	52.17	- 0.08	0.97
Evergreen	28.86	28.73	+ 0.03	..
General Equity	78.34	83.12	+ 0.08	2.62
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	29.78	24.99	+ 0.04	8.49
Japan Growth	47.36	50.65	+ 0.41	..
Pedigree Gwth	47.26	50.28	+ 0.06	2.84
Pref Snr Cos Inc	28.58	30.40	- 0.03	1.41
(Accum Units)	29.69	31.56	- 0.04	1.41
Relievestar Inc #	24.56	25.90	- 0.02	6.20
Special Sits	36.59	37.77	+ 0.06	3.11
UK & Overseas	45.04	47.91	+ 0.10	1.49

COLONIAL MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD
01634 898 000

Capital	62.81	67.17†	+ 0.10	2.37
Income	56.75	60.69†	+ 0.05	4.35

COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD
0181 686 9818

PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)

Income Funds				
Equity Inc	147.25	156.75	- 0.17	6.10
Fixed & Convertible	38.81	41.07†	- 0.04	7.48
Monthly Inc Plus	47.15	50.15	- 0.09	8.93
Preference Share	46.11	48.05†	- 0.01	7.53
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	114.91	122.24†	+ 0.02	7.67
Managed Fund	63.57	67.73	..	3.11
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	36.04	38.34	- 0.11	1.77
Accum Units)	41.34	43.97	- 0.12	1.77
UK & General	72.66	77.30	+ 0.17	2.87
(Accum Units)	90.94	96.74	+ 0.21	2.87
UK Growth	132.81	141.29	+ 0.03	2.41
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	183.54	195.26	- 0.70	0.25
Far Eastern Gth	117.81	125.33	- 0.97	..
Global Bond	76.86	80.81	+ 0.05	6.27
Japan Growth	108.61	115.58	+ 0.80	..
North Amer Gth	161.14	171.43	+ 0.35	..
Oriental Growth	70.78	74.66	- 0.12	..
Worldwide Growth	61.08	64.99	+ 0.12	0.08

OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)

Deposit Fund	92.96	92.96	- 0.01	5.80
Homeowner Fund	72.91	77.56†	+ 0.02	1.95
Outlet Fund	117.59	125.10†	+ 0.23	2.58

CONFEDERATION FUNDS MGMT LTD
01438 744 840

Growth Inc	54.02	57.46†	+ 0.07	3.30
(Accum Units)	58.49	62.22	+ 0.08	3.30
High Income	31.80	33.82	+ 0.01	4.90
Japan	32.97	35.07	+ 0.27	..
Smaller Cos Inc	28.43	30.24	+ 0.01	2.70
Smaller Cos	30.11	32.03	+ 0.01	2.70
North American	31.85	33.89	+ 0.09	0.70
European	35.83	38.11	- 0.14	0.70

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
01771 407 5966

Conscitent Ut	29.18	31.34†		3.54

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
0800 526 366

Growth	131.30	139.70	+ 0.10	2.15
Income	65.01	69.17†	+ 0.03	5.34
European	58.55	62.29	- 0.38	1.11
Recovery	144.90	154.20	- 0.20	1.95

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
0171 280 8494

Equity Dis	773.80	786.00		3.90

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
01277 690 370

Fellowship Tst	68.72	73.10	- 0.31	1.35
Income #	221.30	235.40	- 0.10	4.94
(Accum Units) #	545.20	579.50	- 0.25	4.94
Smaller Cos	147.80	157.20†	- 0.20	0.62
(Accum Units)	180.60	192.10†	- 0.30	0.62
Inv Portfolio	73.21	77.90	- 0.38	1.54
High Inc Port #	64.02	68.10	- 0.09	5.09

DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD
0171 410 0177

Euro Small Cos	£16.15	£16.52		
Japan Small Cos	£11.62	£11.85		
UK Small Cos	£16.85	£17.59†		
US Small Cos	£15.81	£16.32		

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS

Dis Inc	191.90	202.00		3.07

DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD
01.31 315 2000

Enterprise Gwth	265.40	280.60	- 0.60	0.99
New Asia	193.40	206.20	+ 0.20	0.16
Japan Growth	111.20	118.40	+ 1.00	..
Jap Smlr Co	453.10	481.70	+ 1.30	..
Nth Amer	255.40	270.70	+ 1.30	0.08
Small Asia Pac Inc	100.00	115.50	+ 0.39	0.39
UK Inc & Gnth	197.00	210.30	+ 0.50	3.16

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
01242 577 555

UK Balanced Inc	129.90	138.20	- 0.40	1.94
UK High Inc Inc	139.30	148.10	- 0.40	4.85
(Accum Units)	178.20	189.60	- 0.50	4.85
Us Pref & Fl Inc	95.65	99.07	- 0.13	5.31
Envrnmntl Opps	78.51	83.51	- 0.20	1.15
UK Smlr Cos #	47.00	50.00		2.95

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0345 080 526

American	118.70	126.90	+ 0.20	1.39
Convertibles #	19.49	20.71	- 0.01	6.76
Equity Income #	117.40	124.70	+ 0.20	4.25
Enterprise	43.36	46.02	- 0.10	0.43
Financial	40.84	43.36	- 0.06	1.73
Growth & Inc #	215.80	230.40†	+ 0.60	3.54
Income & Growth	142.80	152.60	+ 0.40	4.81
International	354.50	376.60	+ 0.10	0.13
Int Cap Inc	87.39	93.29	+ 0.15	2.65
Latin American	25.39	26.97	+ 0.18	..
Pacific	73.80	78.41	+ 0.06	..
Preference Share	21.75	23.11†	- 0.03	7.14
Tokyo	203.50	216.20	+ 0.50	..
Uk Smaller Cos	208.60	221.50	- 0.40	1.24

ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD
01371 242 0242

Elcon Trust	201.20	214.74	+ 5.26	1.01

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 373 7261

Endurance Fd	188.30	200.30		1.04

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
01256 431 490

European	76.71	80.22	- 0.31	1.72
Ethical Tst	40.60	42.74†	- 0.02	4.10
Far Eastern	373.71	389.12	+ 0.64	2.14
High Income	123.00	129.47	+ 0.11	5.07
Intl Growth	110.43	116.24	+ 0.30	1.37
North American	103.93	111.39	- 0.22	1.44
Pelican	108.79	114.52	+ 0.08	3.34
Smaller Cos	63.68	67.04	- 0.05	2.94
Special Sits	82.32	86.65	- 0.13	2.61
Tst of Inv Tsts	178.47	179.44†	- 0.23	1.67

EVERMORE FUND MGRS LTD
01771 407 5966

Smaller Cos Inc	188.85	195.72	- 0.80	1.49
Smaller Cos Acc	230.44	244.25	- 1.40	1.49
Recovery	48.13	50.14	- 0.17	1.42
Recovery Acc	48.64	50.67	- 0.18	1.42

EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD
01392 412 144

Balanced	107.20	114.04	- 0.19	5.10
Capital Growth	75.54	81.01	- 0.09	..
Fd of Inv Tsts	41.41	44.11†	- 0.07	0.66
High Income #	40.34	43.25†	- 0.06	10.64
Warrant	48.73	52.57	- 0.14	..
Zero Preference	36.58	38.81	- 0.04	..

FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
01273 220 787

Family Asset Tst	72.82	77.47†	- 0.26	2.64
Family Income Tst	43.18	45.18†	- 0.11	6.31
Family Trust	78.55	83.56†	- 0.63	1.52
United Charities	246.80	262.50	- 1.10	3.95

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD
Call free Private Clients: 0800 414 161

Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		6.00
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	26.34	26.44†	- 0.03	7.75
Intl Bond	27.54	28.36†	+ 0.06	5.30
Income Funds				
High Income	23.36	24.60†	- 0.05	5.26
Income Plus	163.30	169.90	+ 0.10	4.28
Amer Sr Inc	45.55	48.21†	+ 0.12	2.05
European Income	49.34	42.98†	- 0.03	1.75
Far East Inc	38.75	42.48	+ 0.19	2.58
Global Convertible	21.47	22.91	+ 0.02	3.71
UK Div Grth	22.98	24.44		2.04
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	57.55	61.39	- 1.05	..
American	221.60	245.30	+ 0.60	..
Amer Spec Sits	110.70	118.10	+ 0.60	..
Japan Smaller Cos	35.69	38.07†	+ 0.11	..
European	163.00	173.40	- 0.10	..
European Opps	60.49	64.32	+ 0.02	..
Global Pfo	23.42	24.96	- 0.05	1.00
UK Growth	84.75	90.12	+ 0.11	..
Growth & Inc	131.69	140.00		2.41
Intl PEP	34.48	36.67	+ 0.15	..
Japan Spec Sits	68.20	91.81†	+ 0.31	..
Japan	174.40	185.70	+ 1.10	..
Managed Int	255.90	272.60	+ 0.70	..
Moneyrollover	49.56	52.69	- 0.05	..
Recovery	44.71	47.54	- 0.12	..
South E Asia	138.30	145.40	+ 1.30	..
Special Sits	482.10	512.70	+ 1.10	..
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	108.27	108.27	+ 0.02	6.00

FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 814 2700

Balanced #	138.50	131.30	..	1.62
Inc Pfolio #	80.16	81.69†	+ 0.23	4.10
Cap Pfolio	151.40	133.69	+ 0.39	1.34
General Opps	115.60	117.50	..	3.57
Growth Inc	27.97	29.59	+ 0.02	1.88
Private Portfolio	382.10	390.40	..	1.35

FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT
Enq 0171 454 1434 Dlg 01277 261 010
Hype Foreign & Colonial

European	108.49	114.50	- 1.90	0.62
Emrg Asia	155.80	166.40	- 0.80	..
High Income	28.51	21.79†	+ 0.05	10.33
Income Growth	85.51	82.47	+ 0.36	3.49
UK Growth	89.41	105.50†	..	1.88
UK Income	99.08	105.70	+ 0.10	3.98
US Smaller Cos	289.50	309.60	+ 0.70	0.12

FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
0171 407 5966

High Inc Exy	44.67	46.97	- 0.05	3.47
-do- Inv Tst Inc	71.03	74.69	- 0.24	4.42
Intl Growth	86.22	89.63	+ 2.09	1.32
Investment Trust	84.30	88.64	- 0.28	..
Un. Snaller Cos	75.98	79.90†	+ 1.62	1.03

FRANKLINSTON UNIT MGMT LTD
0171 374 4100

American Growth	54.07	57.84	..	....
(Accum Units)	54.07	57.84	..	....
Amer Smlr Cos	467.00	499.50	+ 1.00	....
(Accum Units)	477.10	510.30	+ 1.10	....
Capital Tst	287.10	306.30	- 0.70	1.61
(Accum Units)	410

Modest gains at the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
523	380	Abbey Nat	436	- 1	4.5	14.7
316	233	Allied Irish	267		5.3	10.3
276½	171	Bank New Z	212	+ 3	5.5	7.6
1300	744½	Bank America	1275½			
242	172½	Bank Scotland	232		3.3	11.2
640	467	Barclays	591	- 4	5.5	14.7
319	246	Bk of Ireland	305		4.7	8.8
2915½	2555½	Cattlong	2887½			
2864	2600	Close Bros	2700	- 1	4.0	10.5
1156½	1121½	Commercial	1143½	+ 3½	6.0	
1296½	969½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1150	+ 19½	9.5	
1344½	1278½	Deutsche Bk Y	1277½	+ 58½	2.3	
1315½	709½	Exeter Servs	712½		11.6	
98	53	First Nat Finn	89		2.7	44.0
1549½	1152½	Fst Nat Bank Y	1360½	- 1½	9.4	
473	308	Hambros	432	+ 3	6.3	14.2
1113	998	HSBC	1057	+ 8	4.6	9.7
1135	978	HSBC Hk	1059	+ 10	4.6	9.5
1443	1045	Jardine Fl	1393		4.3	12.1
1068	924	Kleinwort Ben	1035	+ 1	4.4	11.7
668	519	Lloyds	564½	+ 6	5.7	9.5
629½	422	Nat Aust Bk	496	+ 4	7.0	
1	421	Nat West	1			
2100	2100	Ottoman Bank	2150	- 10	9.8	8.0
79	53	Rea Bros	63		5.6	5.2
529	373½	Rpl Bk Scot†	395	- 1	4.4	11.3
1574	1053	Schroders	1518	- 26	1.5	13.8
1447	1043	Schroders N/V	1342	- 25	1.7	13.3
114	75	Singer & Fried	84	- 1	4.7	10.8
3580	2232	Standard Chart	3304	- 2	3.1	8.7
2397	1917	TSB†	2190	- 1	4.8	10.1
1012	569	Wardley Ms	774	+ 3	4.8	10.1
2105	861½	Wells Fargo†	9669½			
260	194	Westpac	227	+ 3½	3.5	
388	293	Wintrust	339		6.0	14.7

BREWERIES

1005	150	Ascot Hldgs	154			
619	485	Bass	513		5.1	12.2
599	343	Boddington	346		4.2	13.5
196	168	Burtonwd Brwr	171		3.7	14.3
181	140	Chrdge P 'A'	165		3.1	20.0
86	46½	Fosters Brewng	55		5.1	14.0
493	385	Fuller Sm 'A'	438		3.9	14.0
511	396	Greenalls Grpt	415		3.9	13.7
284	232	Greene King	270		3.5	12.8
367	282	Hardy (Kemp)	351	+ 1	4.5	12.7
178	135	Heavitree	156		3.8	
3763	3135	Hall J	3388		1.8	16.6
248	196	Marchwd	234		3.5	14.3
314	246	Matthew Thmp	278		3.7	14.1
545	435	Morland	465		3.0	13.4
10½	6½	Paramount	7		3.6	16.5
329	259	Regent Inns	325	+ 6	2.3	13.5
1665½	1099	SA Breweries	1487½	+ 6½	1.9	13.3
591	473	Scot & Newc	505	+ 3	3.3	14.5
306	212	Vaux Group	276		5.8	12.3
491	324½	Wetherspoon JD	463		1.8	25.5
617	494	Whitbread	541	+ 4	4.4	14.8
598	486	Wolverhampton D	490		3.5	12.7
208	148	Yates Bros	198	- 1	2.4	15.6
535	450	Young 'A'	480		4.1	19.5

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

205	130	Abbeyfi	130		5.0	9.5
200	143	Allen	158		4.4	14.6
167	56	Amec	58	+ 2	6.5	33.5
467	347	Andrews Sykes	462			
462	333	Ashtead	455		1.7	18.0
191	92½	Avenside	99		5.5	11.5
41	26	Bailey (Ben) Con	35		2.5	21.4
98	53	Balcatn	61			
296	178	Barrett Deve	160	+ 1	4.7	12.4
169	122	Bellway Homes	130	+ 1	5.2	10.2
304	179	Bellway	157	- 1	4.4	11.7
58	31	Bestwicks	36		0.7	30.6
443	316	Bett Bros Gp	317		3.8	10.1
215	118	Bett Bros	178		3.2	5.5
355	270	Bovt (Henry)	323		3.7	11.0
126	35	Brandon Hire	118	- 3	1.5	
235	130	Br Bldg & Eng	130		7.7	8.1
197½	165	Brycnfl	188		5.8	10.3
145½	98	CALA	105		3.3	14.5
54	31	Campbell & Arm	34			
64	44	Clarke T	52		3.8	44.1
4	1¼	Costain	2½			
185	160	Countrywide	170		5.4	12.3
139	73	Cons Nicholson	78		2.6	
148	84	Costains	84		5.1	10.1
38	17	Edmund Hdgs	18			
473	238	Eve Group†	238	- 5	5.8	9.7
280	207	Galliford	227		4.6	
112	85	Gibbs & Dandy	87		3.9	
1028	823	Gleeson (MJ)	863		2.1	14.6
85	71	Green (Eng)	84		9.8	25.9
197	121	Haverack Euro	194	- 3	1.9	17.8
168	138	Hawdon-Dixon	150½	+ ½	3.3	17.3
144	85	Higgs & Hill	87		5.7	
32	19	Howard Hdgs	19		5.3	17.7
25	6	Jarvis	6			
138	103	Kellie	105		4.5	12.2
208	189	Laing (J)	189	- 1	6.0	17.1
164	99	Laing (J) 4% Cr Pf	99		4.0	
145	115	Lon Chesterfld	117		5.7	
173	45	Lovell (TJ)	46		2.8	5.5
253	196	Maunders (J)	205		3.4	13.3
327	254	McAlpine (A)	257		5.2	13.0
64	56½	McCarthy & S	58			18.7
64	51	Morgan Sndall	53		0.2	
185½	92½	Mowlem (J)	93½	- ½	2.7	
379½	170	Persimmon	176	- 1	8.5	12.2
2400	1450	Pochins	2000		2.0	20.0
198	114	Prowting	114		3.5	17.4
116	54½	Rane Hdf	58		7.5	10.4
61	45	Secure Retail	47			15.2
132	93	Redmn.	95	- 1	3.6	9.4
87	58	Sheet-Rte	55		1.7	25.9
388	268	Sprent Hdgs	378	- 2	3.8	10.7
112½	61½	Shorco A	83	- ½	4.9	13.8
245	155	Smart (J)	205		5.2	21.5
288	155½	Speedex	288		1.0	24.2
257	151	Tay Homes	173		4.7	12.7
210	147	Taylor Woodrw	172		4.0	16.8
760	478	Tilbury Douglas	478	- 10	8.6	36.8
63	36	Tarmi Hmyr	60		2.9	21.8
40½	19	Try Group	19		3.3	
128	90	Wilmington	107		4.4	18.2
170	110	Warehousers	110		5.8	11.5
74	48	Ward Hdgs	58		3.3	
226½	123	Westbury	124		5.4	11.3
7½	3¼	Wiggins	4½			
259	130	Wilson (C)	131		4.0	10.8
571	317	Wilson Bowdn	314		5.8	10.8
249	113	Wimpey S	123	+ ½	5.3	18.4

BUSINESS SERVICES

3½	1½	Aagate Ltd	1½			
110	68	App Hldg	70			
165	107	Ashwoods	118		5.3	
11	6½	Bailey (CH)	7¼			
49	30	Black Arrow	30		9.0	6.9
124	70	Br Bloodstock	79			70.9
13	5¼	Card Gp	5¾			16.8
10½	4¼	Chemrer†	6		2.1	18.8
257	108	Cosalt	141		7.1	9.5
257	189	Fleetwd	222		1.1	19.5
50	28	Headway	30	- 3	2.9	23.3
365	234	Hoskins	269	- 1	3.5	12.1
248	152	Logica	152		3.4	14.7
214	114	Metro Gp†	127		3.4	22.2
310	207	Pizzo-Mtf	229	- 3	2.6	
60	36	Prent & Gen	56		4.0	
3½	2½	Porta Group	4½			
7	5½	Redfrce	6			
120	75	Shanks & McEwan	80		3.3	
244	166	Sinclair (Wm)	167		5.4	12.9
700	319	Waste Mgt Int	321	+ 1		

CHEMICALS

156½	113	Allied Colloids	113	- 1	2.7	16.0
750	705	Amber Ind	740	+ 15	3.4	15.5
141½	116½	BASF DM	£140	+1½	3.5	
767	592	BOC	710	- 6	4.4	17.0
365½	236	BTP	257		5.7	13.4
£160½	£125½	Bayer DM50	£156	+1½	3.8	
117	72	Brydon PLC	74		7.8	21.2
154	128	Br Dredging	134		5.2	16.1
409	321	Ciba†	367	+	2.6	18.6
37	31	Colebrand Rby	34	- 2		4.4
278	198	Cape	209		6.6	13.3
456	224	Carolina	234		4.7	15.5
215½	114	Caradon pl	118½		7.6	
87	66	Chemring Gp	84		6.1	10.8
99	69	Dyson 'A'†	107		4.1	16.1
64	17½	Costain	25			
185	160	Countrywide	170		5.4	12.3
139	73	Cons Nicholson	78		2.6	
148	84	Costains	84		5.1	10.1
38	17	Edmund Hdgs	18			
473	238	Eve Group†	238	- 5	5.8	9.7
280	207	Galliford	227		4.6	
112	85	Gibbs & Dandy	87		3.9	
1028	823	Gleeson (MJ)	863		2.1	14.6
85	71	Green (Eng)	84		9.8	25.9
197	121	Haverack Euro	194	- 3	1.9	17.8
168	138	Hawdon-Dixon	150½	+ ½	3.3	17.3
144	85	Higgs & Hill	87		5.7	
32	19	Howard Hdgs	19		5.3	17.7
25	6	Jarvis	6			
138	103	Kellie	105		4.5	12.2
208	189	Laing (J)	189	- 1	6.0	17.1
164	99	Laing (J) 4% Cr Pf	99		4.0	
145	115	Lon Chesterfld	117		5.7	
173	45	Lovell (TJ)	46		2.8	5.5
253	196	Maunders (J)	205		3.4	13.3
327	254	McAlpine (A)	257		5.2	13.0
64	56½	McCarthy & S	58			18.7
64	51	Morgan Sndall	53		0.2	
185½	92½	Mowlem (J)	93½	- ½	2.7	
379½	170	Persimmon	176	- 1	8.5	12.2
2400	1450	Pochins	2000		2.0	20.0
198	114	Prowting	114		3.5	17.4
116	54½	Rane Hdf	58		7.5	10.4
61	45	Secure Retail	47			15.2
132	93	Redmn.	95	- 1	3.6	9.4
87	58	Sheet-Rte	55		1.7	25.9
388	268	Sprent Hdgs	378	- 2	3.8	10.7
112½	61½	Shorco A	83	- ½	4.9	13.8
245	155	Smart (J)	205		5.2	21.5
288	155½	Speedex	288		1.0	24.2
257	151	Tay Homes	173		4.7	12.7
210	147	Taylor Woodrw	172		4.0	16.8
760	478	Tilbury Douglas	478	- 10	8.6	36.8
63	36	Tarmi Hmyr	60		2.9	21.8
40½	19	Try Group	19		3.3	
128	90	Wilmington	107		4.4	18.2
170	110	Warehousers	110		5.8	11.5
74	48	Ward Hdgs	58		3.3	
226½	123	Westbury	124		5.4	11.3
7½	3¼	Wiggins	4½			
259	130	Wilson (C)	131		4.0	10.8
571	317	Wilson Bowdn	314		5.8	10.8
249	113	Wimpey S	123	+ ½	5.3	18.4

DISTRIBUTORS

137	96	ABI Loc	96		5.3	11.0
337	248	Acal	268		2.9	16.7
585	353	Adam & Harvey	569		3.5	7.9
31	20	Alexandroy	20		0.2	
175	88	Appleyard	91		8.6	16.1
6	3¼	Arc & Eng	4½		1.5	30.3
578	495	BSS Group	530		4.3	16.7
35½	17	Bearing Power†	22½		5.8	11.5
405	249	Blackfrs Wh	252		5.7	19.4
375	88	Bogod 'A'	90		3.3	18.8
370	288	Bunzl	347		4.7	19.3
31	13	Budgend Gp	13	- ½	1.9	67.6
99	78	Bull Finnings	94		3.0	
71	40	Brown & Tawse	41	- 1		
57	35	Bunzlpnr	38		6.3	
465	245	Calleys	258		5.6	42.4
59	12	Carlert Pic	18½	+ ½	8.3	9.1
130	74	Central Mkt†	77		4.5	
51	32½	Cook (DC)	36		4.0	11.8
342½	197½	Cowie	325		5.2	11.0
692½	446	Dng Maspin	636		5.2	15.6
663	446	Dennians Eff	588		1.4	14.5
638	414½	Drglonds	433		3.9	15.2
588	442	Electrocomponents	493	+ 1	2.8	20.2
175	139	Electron Houses†	160		4.4	11.3
283	205	Elec & Electrnc†	251		3.9	15.7
234	180	Evode Hldg	180	- 6	5.5	15.1
173	100	European Mr	100		5.7	10.8
539½	376	Evans Halshaw	376		4.7	11.9
856	490½	Farnell Elect	546	+ 2	1.8	22.4
78	50	Fife Indmx	55		6.2	8.9
34	15	Gardner	29½		5.0	
25	19	Glendimplex	20			
99	60	Glenrigg	71		3.5	21.5
276	199	Hamln Hldgs	266			50.7
172	125	Harris (Philip)	168		5.1	11.7
342½	258	Hartys	259		3.6	13.9
197	88	Hawtin Tech	93	- 4	8.1	10.1
138	103	ICA Int	103		2.1	12.9
699	295	Ladbroke	566		6.3	9.8
58	35	Jacks (Wm)	50			13.4
184	143	Fwk-Fd	143	- 5	3.5	16.4
353	277	Lex Service	279		6.0	10.7
282	162	Lowes	173		3.6	9.3
28	14	Malvern Eqp	16			
9	3½	Mickleover ©	7½			
448	378	Norbain	378	- 3	0.7	16.9
108	47	Northumber	92		1.8	39.1
175	152	PCI	152		6.1	12.7
310	228	Pendragon	228		4.1	15.0
238	130	Perry Gp	130		6.7	7.1
216	155	Bunzlpnr Group	128		5.1	13.6
166	97	Rea Bros	165		4.5	9.1
24	4	Recc Gp	4½			
215	151	SSP Indtl	389		3.4	
31	15	Ralfe Range	27		3.8	16.9
265	215	Time Products	227		4.8	15.3
221	151	Vardy (Reg)	168		3.9	12.4
335	240	Wholesale Pwr	243		6.1	21.4
376	99	Wolfe Gp	86	+ ½	2.3	9.0
89	39½	Wiltcher	39	- ½	1.2	9.1
69	40	WyAst	65		2.1	22.1
96	61	Young (H)	75	- 3	6.0	14.0

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

202	148	Ackrell	156		6.0	15.9
380	199½	Autologistics	303		1.5	24.5
63	44	Avesort	44		5.3	9.1
997	773½	Bicken Hill	841	+ 4	2.4	17.9
491	273	BTR	389	+ 5	2.8	46.7
570	372	BAT	416	- 5	6.2	10.9
379½	128½	Bernhard Intnl	234	+ 2	0.3	61.9
91	49	Bailey (J)	85		4.4	15.8
575	44	Bradley Inv	45½		3.0	9.9
636	536½	Charter	765	- 3	4.8	9.8
285	215	Cookson	218	- 1	3.7	19.7
291	118	Alfred	123		3.0	9.9
478	287	BICC	340	+ 4	7.1	21.4
283	139	Bosles Hunter†	241		5.1	12.9
16	7	Bradley Bus	9			
326	260	Bulloch	314		2.1	21.4
81	43	Booth Ibstn	80			
29	12½	Bramwell	14½		4.6	13.7
211½	145	Bulgin (AF) 'A'	19		1.6	11.1
203	184	Cmll, Micro	194		3.9	12.4
87	32	Clarnnel Hldgs	37	- 1	4.2	10.5
30½	20	Colandr	20		5.0	58.1
80	60	Clarkson	63		6.3	
180	81	Copymore	150		3.6	
202	139	Cray Electr	143½		2.2	16.7
478	412	Crodaley	473	- 1	2.2	19.9
493	280	Dobbs Br Sys	283	+ 1	4.8	19.8
586	430	Delta	482	+ 1	4.0	15.0
515	400	Diamond	527		2.3	
78	63	Dowding Mills	67		4.8	24.4
1635	1220	Dtech	1500		0.5	25.5
37500	23000	Electrolux 'B'	31000	- 450		
38½	21	Ermo	30		0.4	
4040½	2737½	Ericsson 'B'	3632½	+ ½	1.3	25.3
86	56	Exmoorpnt	66		3.8	13.2
451	343	Forethought	401	- 1	1.7	20.7
418	334½	Fossy Group	395		2.8	10.4
283	180	Forward Gp	247		2.8	15.2
58	14½	Forward Tech	45		2.2	9.3
353½	259	GEC†	288	+ ½	4.7	14.3
191	102	Gestmer	115		2.6	
191	119	Glazstry	142		5.1	13.3
193	129	Grl Control	141		4.4	11.9
235	203	Kenwood Appl	208		4.3	13.1
1325	730	Kershaw (A)	1325		3.2	9.8
165	38	Kode	64	- 1	1.6	
56	35	LPA Ind	35		5.7	24.9
250	210	MTL Inst	238		3.8	18.0
218	180	Meggitt	208		1.2	18.2
45	31	Micrnvtec	37½			18.6
442	343	BS	345		3.6	13.8
101	69	Elliott (B)	90		2.7	13.8
118	69	Expamet	69		3.6	63.8
242	141½	FKI	142		2.7	16.4
148	108	Fairey	135	- 1	1.4	61.4
45	17	Ferrum	17			
209	155	Filtrona	188		3.6	16.1
344	270	GEI Int	303		2.0	19.1
1334	911	Gartmr Eng	1191	+ 1	4.8	17.5
404	295	Glynwed	298	- 2	4.9	17.5
14½	10	Grandtree	12		2.5	10.1
85	54	Haden Mach	61		4.1	15.6
206	145	Hadleigh	145		3.4	10.7
143	96	Hall Eng	143	- 1	7.0	11.2
256½	186½	Halma	189½	- 2½	1.7	30.5
73	47	Hampson Indl	58		4.0	15.1
46	35	Hay (Maynard)	35		6.2	
1944	122	Hill & Smith	125		2.8	
83	30	Hopkinsons	58		2.6	
41	27	How Gp	35		2.7	
103	78	Howden	78	- 1	4.1	12.7
265	157	Hunting	170	- 1	2.4	24.3
379	266	IMI	300	- 2	4.2	35.5
51	33½	Johnson & Fl	41½			
626	488	Johnson Matth	539	+ ½	2.9	19.8
93	72	Jones Stephen	90			
271	206	Kelsey Indl	217		5.1	
271	206	Lindal	271		3.2	16.9

ELECTRICITY

894½	618½	East Midlands†	758	+ 8	4.5	31.9
866	566	Eastern Elect	727	+ 3	4.2	15.9
785	534	London Elect	744		4.1	11.4
997	773½	Midlands Elec	940	- 5	4.0	10.0
696	547	Nthrn Elec Dist	774	- 5	4.0	11.3
559	404½	National Power	486	+ 3	4.0	13.3
1130	989	Northern Elec	1117	- 3	3.7	11.5
491	329	Nthn Ireland	358		4.2	9.8
662	587	Norweb	629	+ 16	3.7	10.0
682	498	Powergen	615	+ 11	3.6	11.1
477	307	Scott Elec	319		3.8	10.0
486	318	Scottish Power†	353		5.0	10.2
490	289	Scottpwr	445	- 2	3.5	12.1
912	591	Sth Wales†	866	- 3	4.2	11.7
688	551	Sth Western†	664		4.2	11.3
837	540	Southern Elect	795	+ 2	4.0	11.8
909	604½	Yorkshire Elec	851	- 3	4.1	14.5

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

109	63	Acorn Comp	95			
489	478	Admiral	485		1.3	19.5
391	163	Alba	391	+ 1	3.2	15.6
256	126½	Amstrad	136½		2.1	
39	24	Arlec	36	- 1		
84½	77	Aztec	79½		1.4	16.3
291	118	Abtec	123		3.0	9.9
478	287	BICC	340	+ 4	7.1	21.4
283	139	Bosles Hunter†	241		5.1	12.9
16	7	Bradley Bus	9			
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211½	145	Bulgin (AF) 'A'	19		1.6	11.1
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87	32	Clarnnel Hldgs	37	- 1	4.2	10.5
30½	20	Colandr	20		5.0	58.1
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180	81	Copymore	150		3.6	
202	139	Cray Electr	143½		2.2	16.7
478	412	Crodaley	473	- 1	2.2	19.9
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515	400	Diamond	527		2.3	
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1635	1220	Dtech	1500		0.5	25.5
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242	141½	FKI	142		2.7	16.4
148	108	Fairey	135	- 1	1.4	61.4
45	17	Ferrum	17			
209	155	Filtrona	188		3.6	16.1
344	270	GEI Int	303		2.0	19.1
1334	911	Gartmr Eng	1191	+ 1	4.8	17.5
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379	266	IMI	300	- 2	4.2	35.5
51	33½	Johnson & Fl	41½			
626	488	Johnson Matth	539	+ ½	2.9	19.8
93	72	Jones Stephen	90			
271	206	Kelsey Indl	217		5.1	
271	206	Lindal	271		3.2	16.9

BUILDING MATERIALS

37	12	Abingdon	13		4.8	22.0
343	253	Alumasc	338		2.5	16.8
65½	43½	Ampomey Grt	50		3.1	25.7
353	274	BPB Ind	314	+ 2	3.3	16.1
142	93	Baggeridge Brk	125		3.1	12.9
60	38

Big players are muscling in as they are attracted to both domestic and international private banking, reports **Patricia Tehan**

In search of a niche in the market-place



James Cooper, chief executive of Lloyds Private Banking: high street banks are working hard to keep their wealthy customers

Private banks are victims of their own success. They have proved to be such fantastic profit-generators, so adaptable to changes in their market place, and so responsive to customer needs, that they have attracted growing competition from new rivals.

Private bankers say it is becoming increasingly difficult to work out who their competitors are as high street banks, merchant banks, overseas banks, fund managers, accountants and lawyers compete to provide asset management services and financial advice to wealthy customers.

Until very recently private banking has been a fragmented market, with strong domestic players dominating their home markets, growing their business slowly, with new business coming from personal recommendation.

But this is changing as banking markets are deregulated and customers increasingly expect more in the way of both service and products from their banks. In the UK the wealth of the population is growing as people inherit money and property from their parents.

Big players are muscling in to both domestic and international private banking, bringing more capital and therefore more competition. At the end of last year Deutsche Bank announced its intention to become one of Europe's pre-eminent private banks.

A survey due next month from Price Waterhouse's management consultancy is expected to show that private banks see competition as their biggest threat. However, Ian Woodhouse, the author of Price Waterhouse's European Private Banking Survey, says the turmoil in the bond and equity markets last year, and the fall in the value of funds under management, have also been a cause for concern for private banks.

George Alford, head of private banking at Kleinwort Benson, says that it has become harder to identify competitors. He says: "There has been a sense in some parts of the industry that the private area is more profitable than other areas in which banks have not been so successful. The industry has a long tradition of swinging from one fashionable market to another and back again."

Kleinwort set up its private banking division in 1989 by drawing together its banking and investment products businesses, though it had been offering investment management and mortgage services to individuals through different parts of the group for many years.

However, Mr Alford adds: "We use the term private banking less publicly now because it is a term that has been taken downmarket by lots of people rushing in and trying to put a label on standards of service which we do not think are high enough."

Typically, the merchant banks do not offer personal bank accounts, but sell investment services.

Mr Alford says Kleinwort is investigating new products all the time. Kleinwort launched a high-interest cheque account in 1984. Its new Investor's Deposit Account, earning returns linked to the performance of the stock market and tried out as a pilot last year, is to be launched to all customers in April.

Private banking has become a hot topic for British banks. When it canvassed its 320 members to find out how many had private banking interests, the British Bankers' Association was surprised when 65 registered interest. At the end of last year it set up a new advisory committee.

For the very wealthy, private banking is no longer a domestic affair.

A spokeswoman for the BBA said that private banks' customers are increasingly interested in things other than domestic stocks and domestic deposits. "It is a reflection of the increasing international investment profile of clients that international private banking is becoming an issue," she says.

Customers are expecting more from their banks. They expect more portfolio management and in-house investment funds, as well as foreign exchange expertise. Products are becoming more global, which makes it more costly for the banks to do business as a result of higher staff and infrastructure costs and a squeeze on margins.

As customers become more financially aware, they are also becoming more demanding. Nicholas Grant, chairman of Duncan Lawrie, the UK private bank, says: "Customers are getting more sophisticated all the time. They are no longer happy just to have their money sitting in a Swiss bank account earning next to nothing. They want to see more return."

As investors' interest in emerging markets and global capital markets grows, private banking products are becoming more global and more complex. Internationally, private banking is a growth business.

As new sources of wealth are created in the Far East and the former Soviet Union, international private banks will be successful only if they can understand the structural changes in their market place.

In fact, the Swiss banks, notably UBS and Credit Suisse, are becoming more aggressive. Mr Woodhouse says that the Swiss bank operations used to be able to sit back and wait for money to flow in. "Now they are having to be more aggressive in terms of going out and seeking wealth and identifying the needs of their customers, he says.

The high street banks, which have in the past lost their wealthy clients to private banking rivals, are now working much harder to keep them.

Lloyds moved into the domestic private banking market ten years ago and launched Lloyds Private Banking in 1992. Barclays and Midland have newer private banking operations. National Westminster is more established in private banking than the others, with its separately branded Coutts.

When a banker needs to be like the family doctor

A private bank stands or fails by the quality of its service. Fees are normally of secondary importance to a wealthy client impressed by cachet and seeking sophisticated discretionary portfolio management.

Nor, given his high tax liability, is a client likely to worry about the interest which a few thousand pounds might earn in a building society instead.

So the personal touch is everything. Every client is assigned his own relationship manager whose subtle blend of charm, prudence and authority will, it is hoped, assure a client's continuing loyalty.

According to a recent survey by the accountants Price Waterhouse, service quality and brand image are the key factors attracting new clients.

Apparently 14 per cent of clients who walk out on their private bank do so because they are dissatisfied with its service. This may not seem an enormous proportion, but in today's competitive climate, established private banks are under pressure to add value to current levels of client support through staff training and development.



Warwick Newbury: "We are head-hunting"

They cannot afford to rest on their laurels and they know it. But finding and keeping qualified staff with the special personal qualities needed to promote happy client relationships is not easy.

Roy French, private banking manager at Child & Co, stresses the importance of low staff turnover. Most clients like to see their relationship manager as philosopher, guide and friend, and feel disoriented by change. Continuity and stability make clients feel secure, as does a measure of maturity. "We look for maturity in our staff," says Mr French. "We wouldn't dream of assigning a 20, or even a 30-year-old to deal with a middle-aged or elderly customer."

Background and education can vary; essentially it is personal qualities rather than paper qualifications that make a successful private banker. Child & Co is fortunate in being able to call on the resources of its parent, the Royal Bank of Scotland.

"Our tax expert comes from the RBS Trust and Tax department," Mr French says. "Another recruit spent his early years in offshore companies in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, and others we have bred ourselves, recruiting straight from school or university."

Some newcomers to private banking are pushing hard to recruit staff with established reputations in the older banks. And American institutions, which pay generously for high performance, are also targeting top relationship officers at traditional British banks. Coutts is directly in their sights.

Warwick Newbury, who heads Coutts's UK private banking operations, is confident, however, that the old firm can repel head-hunters with competitive salaries.

"We are also head-hunting relationship managers," he says. Coutts employs 75 of such managers (it has about 30 product managers). Mr Newbury looks for the unglamorous quality of common sense and the tact and sensitivity of a good GP. A sense of timing is also useful. "to know at what point in a consultation to refer a client to a specialist more qualified to advise on perhaps a mortgage scheme or pension plan".

The fear of losing valuable staff to competitors is making relative newcomers like Lloyds and Barclays, as well as Coutts, introduce more performance-related pay. Coutts has also upgraded its bonus scheme. Child & Co will follow suit.

DAVID RUDNICK

Challenging the old guard

The high street banks are branching out into a venerable sector

The number of private banks has mushroomed over the past decade to cater for the new rich who flowered in the freebooting 1980s. *David Rudnick writes.*

The youngest market debutante is Midland Private Banking, which opened its first branches last July. "Long-established players are not necessarily best placed to take advantage of the opportunity offered by the distribution of wealth across a greater number of individuals," says the head of marketing, Lucy Weldon. Midland believes strongly in opening offices all over the country to provide a local service for private clients.

Two of the other main clearers, Barclays and Lloyds, have opened private banking subsidiaries over the past few years. All are attracted by returns well above recent levels in retail banking. Barclays, established just over 18 months ago, uses its extensive international network to maximise the investment potential of private banking funds in the UK. Barclays expect clients to have at least £250,000 of investable assets — a high figure compared with Lloyds' £75,000, Midland's £100,000, or even Coutts's £150,000. According to Heather Maizels, Barclays' UK private banking director: "They are targeting a different market with their lower minimum thresholds. Our average balances are over £1 million."

Lloyds also has an upmarket service catering for high net-worth individuals in the £250,000-plus bracket. The service is geared towards investment management, which Lloyds claims accounts for about two-thirds of the £6 billion of private banking funds it has under management.

Though private banking may still be modest in scale compared with the whole retail banking sector, it already provides a respectable income for the high street banks. But critics wonder whether they are not shooting themselves in the foot by wooing wealthy customers away from their own retail branches to their new private banks.

James Cooper, chief executive at Lloyds Private Banking, says: "We are only taking away investment banking and other planning and advisory work that our retail branches wouldn't touch anyway."

Midland branch managers are asked to introduce appropriate customers to private banking, but Ms Weldon says the branches continue to share the client relationship. "They still provide day-to-day services to Midland Private Banking clients, like paying in cheques and withdrawing money. Also, private banking offices are located within an existing branch or local area office, and our private banking profit is reported as an integral part of Midland branch banking's profits."

National Westminster, the other main UK clearer, has a powerful stake in private banking through its ownership of Coutts. NatWest itself is offering relationship banking services through branch-based personal account executives. "This is not private banking in the truest sense," a spokesman said, "since we are aiming at lower net-worth customers. But we do offer financial advice and similar products to people whose income and assets don't measure up to Coutts's requirements."

NatWest's minimum annual income benchmark is about £35,000 for "up and coming clients" with a minimum capital of around £85,000.

What do the old guard think of all these parvenus? On the whole they accept the need to shake off their élitist old school tie image and open their doors to a wider public.

However, Richard Hoare, a director of Hoare & Co, one of Britain's oldest and most venerable private banks, and the only one still in family hands, finds it deplorable that "a lot of people who call themselves private bankers are nothing of the sort; they are merely trying to sell financial products, mainly fund management, and pass it off as private banking".

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هكذا من الأصل

Too busy for school run? Send the financial adviser

Private bankers can now provide bespoke services for clients from writing a will to collecting the family yacht

A private banker can be a maid of all work to the rich: broker, fund manager, custodian, lender — even nanny. *David Rudnick writes.* Clients are increasingly offered a "one-stop" service, which might include the collection of interest and dividends, trading securities and holding them in safe custody, finding the most tax-efficient ways of making a will, and generally providing a personally-tailored service to suit a client's needs.

Nothing is too much trouble. Lloyds will make hotel bookings and medical appointments; some other banks will collect your children from school or your yacht from Cannes.

But portfolio management is probably the key service: administering a client's income, protecting his assets and helping him to make more from what he has.

Why, though, should a client go to a bank for the whole gamut of specialised financial services when it has less expertise than professional specialists? Surely the saving in time and inconvenience may be outweighed by getting a second-best service?

The question is taken seriously. "We never go further than our capabilities," says Roy French, private banking manager at Child & Co. "We know who to turn to for expert advice, even though we employ specialists ourselves."

James Cooper, chief executive at Lloyds Private Bank, adds: "We can access specialist services in tax management, will preparation and administration, and trustee services — though business in the latter has slowed considerably since leaving assets in trust form is much less tax-advantageous than it used to be."

Barclays, a relative newcomer to private banking, defines it as integrated asset management, though Heather Maizels, who directs UK operations, acknowledges that the concept is not always understood. "Traditionally, private clients in the UK have bought their services in a disaggregated way — through a stockbroker for shares, a banker for cash services, a lawyer for trusts and wills, or an accountant for tax and financial planning."

She finds that clients and regulators have difficulty understanding how one individual can deliver all these services.

Integrated asset management can certainly avoid the inconsistent financial planning that may result from conflicting advice from several sources. Against that, entrusting all your assets to a single pair of hands can result in your nominally "independent" mentor putting your funds into his favoured investment or unit trusts. Nick Haynes, head of private portfolio management at Kleinwort Benson, says candidly: "Normally we do offer in-house funds, particularly our unit trusts — unless clients stipulate otherwise, which occasionally they do."

Kleinwort Benson is one old firm that is responding to the challenge of the big clearing banks with new (or revamped) products. It recently launched a Residential Care Scheme aimed at those compelled by the self-help provisions of the 1993 Community Care Act to fend more for themselves in insuring for their old age.

Specialist insurance services are a burgeoning, fairly new product attuned to the more defensive financial climate of the 1990s. Midland Private Banking, the latest clearing bank on the scene, specifies an insurance background as a desirable qualification for staff. Lucy Weldon, head of marketing, sees "a new trend towards deposit-based products among individuals who see wealth preservation rather than capital growth as a key objective". On the other hand, James Cooper at Lloyds finds his clients are demanding "a more dynamic approach. The main emphasis is on asset management rather than wealth preservation."

Already loan business is apparently being downgraded by many, if not most private bankers. Roy French at Child & Co says the depressive effects of recession, combined with more competition caused by the entry of the big clearers, has sharply reduced margins on lending, making it one of the least attractive lines in the business.

"Investment services are probably the most profitable, with good fees to be made from good performance," he says. Barclays also feel its cash management services show particular promise, but, somewhat against the trend, Coutts says lending remains its major product, at least in the UK.

TIM ANDERSON



Safe hands: some banks will even collect your child from school

British rich share £120 billion hoard

The number of well-off people in the world is growing, says David Rudnick

Private banking is growing as the wealthy increase in number. The global market is expanding at an estimated 16 per cent annually, and individuals with liquid assets exceeding $1 million dispose of an astronomical $10 trillion.

All developed countries are sharing in the growth but expansion is particularly strong, says James Cooper, chief executive of Lloyds Private Banking, in the Pacific rim and the United States "which will be a vast market by the end of the decade".

Europe is not expected to show the same dynamic growth, though Switzerland, the traditional safe haven, is still attracting sizeable funds from countries such as Holland and Germany.

In the UK, there are around 1.2 million high-net-worth individuals and their number is rising by more than 5 per cent a year, according to a survey by management consultants Datamonitor. Its definition of high-net-worth is generous: it takes £50,000 in liquid assets as the threshold, though most private banks insist on their clients owning considerably more.

On that broad basis around £120 billion is in play, a startling 45 per cent of it held by about half a million elderly people owning on average £100,000 of liquid assets. The survey considers most older people to be financially unsophisticated, but as the UK population ages they are expected to provide a built-in market growth factor — once they are systematically targeted.

Next in importance, with 12 per cent of the potential market, come inheritors of property who choose to sell it and invest the lump sum. There are more than 100,000 of them with £76,000 on average to play with. This is low for most private bankers but the category is growing.

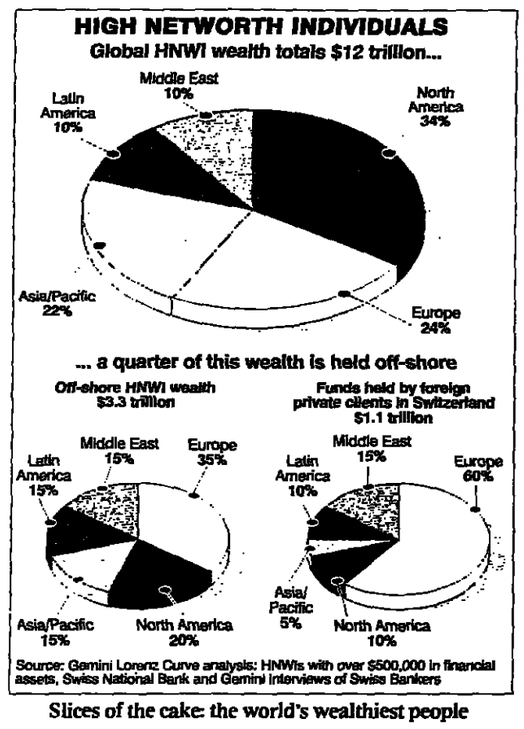
"Young people inheriting parents' and relations' funds will accelerate demand for private banking services, but much will depend on growth in house prices," says Mr Cooper. On the other hand, he adds, old people are living longer and needing to spend more of their own money on health care and general living expenses, leaving less to their heirs.

On the supply side, banks say they have been attracted into the market as the returns on retail banking have fallen. "Private banking requires little capital and the added value from services offered can benefit both client and bank," explains Mr Cooper.

But isn't the market getting overcrowded with new players moving in? Not at all, says Warwick Newbury, head of Coutts' UK private banking operations. "The market remains largely untapped. A lot of new players are coming in but there have been no drop-outs in recent years."

Some Swiss banks, however, have come and gone. "They have not found the UK scene too congenial," Mr Newbury says. "It's too equity oriented for their taste, different from the bond-based culture they're used to."

The unruffled, old-world charm of private banking could soon be an outmoded cliché as gentlemen and new players mix it in a tougher market place peopled by a much less exclusive clientele.



Slices of the cake: the world's wealthiest people

Critical time for City banks

Merchant banks are more flexible about their clients

Merchant banks are facing what is likely to be one of the most critical periods in their 150-year existence.

Huge financial losses caused by volatile global equity and bond markets during 1994, coupled with a dramatic drop in all-round trading prospects for this year, have forced these hitherto lofty City institutions to rethink their business strategy. And private clients could lead the way back to corporate recovery.

A report published this month by Datamonitor, the management consultancy, predicts that trading for merchant banks is expected to fall this year. It says: "Overall trading revenues are likely to be significantly down on the previous year with losses for some banks. Consequently, capital markets will decline as a proportion of overall operating income."

The report continues: "Trading activities are the linchpin of merchant banking revenues, and are the 'make or break' activity for many banks. As a consequence, total operating income is likely to be lower than last year."

Nor can merchant banks rely solely on a steady stream of fee income from corporate finance work to bolster their fortunes, although this type of activity is expected to pick up this year, as is corporate banking. But new company issues, another source of business for merchant banks, face a testing time when they make their stock market debut. As Datamonitor points out: "Oversupply, high prices and problems with newly floated stock trading below offer price created nervousness in the markets in late 1994, and may have tempered some of this growth."

In the face of such a future, however, the more far-sighted merchant banks have turned their attention to managing other people's money: a preserve more generally associated with the traditional fund management institutions and life companies.

Tom Cross Brown, chief executive of Lazard Investors, part of Lazard Brothers, says that although his part of the Lazard empire is "still very much under the umbrella of a merchant bank" it is the intention that it will become increasingly important as a profit centre for the parent.

Traditionally, Lazard has preferred its private clients to have at least £1 million. That is no longer the case. Mr Cross Brown says: "We are much more flexible nowadays and a figure of £700,000 is perfectly adequate. On the one hand asset management is about looking after institutional money on behalf of pension funds and charities and that is a very competitive market. On the other, it is managing the financial affairs of private clients, which includes estate and inheritance planning just as much as it does making sure that the person has made proper pension provision."

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is looking for a bright, highly efficient administrator with secretarial skills to join our small team. Ambitions in the art world a drawback. Job requires accurate typing & filing. Previous admin exp & excellent secretarial skills ess. S/H & book-keeping knowledge pref. Salary c£12K-£14K.

Stephanie on 071 938 6659

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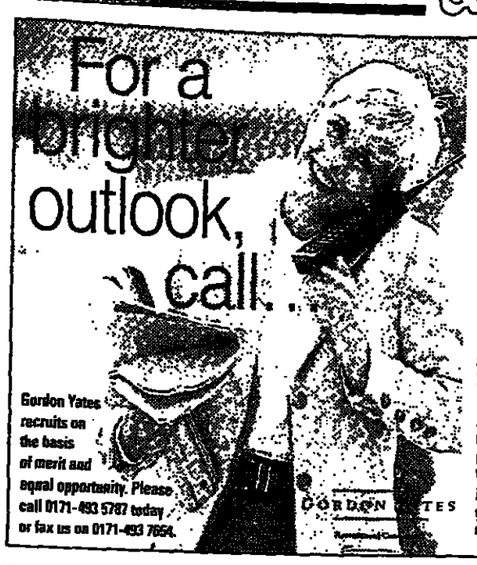
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At last a genuine opportunity to progress your secretarial career surrounded by the excitement of a hectic investment banking environment. Your flair for organisation, self-motivation and enthusiasm will help you manage your team of 7 dynamic bosses. A varied workload combining traditional secretarial duties with extensive client liaison, research and project work make this a high profile role, demanding and responsible role ideal for those seeking a challenge and real involvement. If you have excellent skills, preferably 3 years' experience, a professional and committed attitude to your work, please contact us regarding the above position and other vacancies. Skills: 50 wpm. All applications are positively welcomed. Contact us now at Angela Mortimer plc (Rec Cons) on: **0171-726 8491**

Angela Mortimer



Dynamic PA £21.5K

One of the world's leading names in head-hunting is currently seeking a first-class, experienced PA to work in their London office. This is an amazing opportunity for someone efficient and dedicated, who enjoys their work. Duties will be challenging and varied including lots of client and candidate liaison. Typing 60wpm, 3 years secretarial experience essential.

The Italian Influence £19K + benefits

What an opportunity! If you are fluent in Italian, are hungry for a challenge and want to work in a sociable and international US legal corporation, we have the job for you! Our client is seeking a "one in a million" secretary to work for one of their senior executives. The role is involving and varied with duties including lots of client liaison and lengthy report compilation. Shorthand 80wpm and typing 50wpm are essential. Computer literacy desirable. Great benefits.

First Class, First Jobber! £14K

Can you afford to ignore this absolutely unmissable opportunity to launch yourself into the world of work? A top West End property agency is looking for a bright, enthusiastic and committed secretary. Brilliant role for a bright graduate/college leaver wanting a full secretarial/support role with true involvement guaranteed. Typing 60wpm.

LASMO

Two Key Roles in the Oil Industry

LASMO plc is one of the largest independent oil and gas exploration and production companies in the UK. With operations in eight countries, our UK headquarters are based in prestigious modern offices close to Liverpool Street Station.

We are looking for two exceptional people to join our team.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – PERSONNEL

Working directly for the Manager, Personnel and Administration, you will provide administrative and secretarial support covering all aspects of Personnel. Self-assured and with excellent organisational skills you should be able to work at a high level in a pressurised environment. Administrative duties include organising training courses, recruiting temporary staff, dealing with unsolicited letters and maintaining accurate and up to date personnel files.

This key position requires a flexible and adaptable approach therefore we are looking for an outgoing, friendly person who is able to liaise confidently with staff at all levels. Previous personnel experience is essential.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT/SECRETARY – FINANCE

This position requires an experienced Technical Assistant/Secretary to provide secretarial, accounts and report preparation support to the Finance Group. The workload is heavy and there are often tight deadlines to be met. Excellent technical word processing skills as well as the ability to prepare financial reports is essential. A basic understanding of accounts and an aptitude for figures is desirable.

Both positions require good working knowledge of Word 6 and Excel. The latter position also needs experience of Wordperfect 5.1.

In addition to a first class salary, benefits include non-contributory pension, life assurance, subsidised BUPA, IPSTL and subsidised Health Club.

Please send your CV, together with salary expectations, to Sue Simmons, LASMO plc, 100 Liverpool Street, London EC2M 2BB. STRICTLY NO AGENCIES

SALES SECRETARY /PA to MANAGING DIRECTOR & SALES MANAGER
Based in Putney Salary £16,000 plus bonus

Hill Price Davison is a well established computer software company, with a record of providing business software to financial institutions all over the world.
We need a competent individual who likes to be part of a hard working team, with a flexible and adaptable approach to work. Accurate secretarial skills, conversant with WP systems and PC applications essential plus French and Spanish desirable.

Please send letter and CV to Christine Stone,
HILL PRICE DAVISON
Aspley House, 176 Upper Richmond Road, Putney, London SW15 2SH

Clarins, the leading skin care and cosmetic house offer the following excellent career opportunities:

TRAINING ADMINISTRATION CO-ORDINATOR

This role involves the day to day co-ordination of a busy team of Training Managers and the booking of training courses. The ideal candidate should possess excellent WP skills (60 wpm), be able to work on their own initiative, have excellent organisational flair and a professional phone manner. An excellent opportunity to be part of a dynamic team!

SALES ADMINISTRATION CO-ORDINATOR

This position involves the administration of a large promotions team in an extremely hectic environment. The successful candidate should have sound secretarial experience, be able to run an effective promotions schedule and be a good communicator. If you are bright, enthusiastic and enjoy a challenge apply now!

If you possess a minimum of one year's experience, we offer a very competitive salary and generous product allocation, please send your Curriculum Vitae to: The Personnel Department, Clarins (UK) Ltd, 4 Queen Street, Mayfair, London, W1X 8ND.

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There are 3 ways to temp and 3 types of agencies.
1 The Soft Option - the green and blue slopes of temping. Predictable, minimum effort but also minimum reward.
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If you have EXTREME confidence in your secretarial skills and feel ready for the off-piste challenge you should be talking to us. Call our experienced guides now and start praying for snow! 0171 390 7000

Crone Corkill
RECRUITMENT — *Temps* — CONSULTANTS

Fund Managers' "Assistant"

c.£21,000 plus benefits

We have an exciting opportunity for an experienced secretary to join a successful firm of Fund Managers based in the City. Your role will encompass the provision of secretarial support to 3 directors, preparing presentation reports, booking travel arrangements and organising itineraries. There is masses of potential to get involved on the client side and with time your responsibilities will increase. We are looking for someone who is ambitious and has over three years secretarial experience gained within a financial institution. Age 25-35. Skills: 50wpm/ WP/ Spreadsheets. Please call Claire Ashley on 0171 390 7000

Crone Corkill
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Marketing Secretary - Banking

to £18,500 & big bens

Do you have 90 wpm shorthand, a flexible, team spirited attitude and an interest in marketing in the City? If the answer is "yes", this could be your perfect job! Our client, a leading Investment Management company requires a proactive and efficient secretary to support a Managing Director and four executives, one of whom is based in Geneva. Duties will include arranging travel and lunches, dealing with expenses, preparing presentations and holding the fort in your boss's absence. You will need fast typing and a good knowledge of Microsoft Word for Windows and be aged 24-35. Please call Vanessa Mitchell on 0171 390 7000

Crone Corkill
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Career Expansion

c£21,000 + Bonus

Rapidly expanding Corporate Finance Boutique seeks a first-class secretary/assistant who is looking for a genuine career opportunity in the City. Providing full secretarial support to the MD and his team you will have to juggle a variety of responsibilities from research projects, client liaison, organising in-house lunches and entertainment to busy and ever changing diaries. Initially the secretarial content may be high but for someone who is fully commited, wants to be the main lynch-pin in a challenging environment the prospects are unlimited. Financial experience preferred and a good understanding of WPs. Age 25-35. Skills 60/rusty shorthand. Please call Annie Howstoun immediately on 0171 390 7000

Crone Corkill
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE £25,000 PACKAGE

Due to the promotion of the current PA we are looking for another paragon to assist the Chairman of a very successful commodity trading company. Flexibility, diplomacy & commitment are key ingredients as there is a great deal of involvement in the Chairman's personal and business affairs & a lot of contact with high level business people. Salary package is around £25,000. Shorthand essential.

Call 071 439 7001

SECRETARIES PLUS
The Secretarial Consultants

Maine-Tucker
Recruitment Consultants

An Escape From The City- Circa £20,000

... a few years ago a bright City star left the dark maze of streets in the city for the bright lights & fresh air of the West End and set up his own very successful company in the heart of W1. He took not only his valuable City financial experience but his then very valuable Secretary with him to train as a Fund Manager. Today, some years on, they have a fabulous Client list, beautiful offices and a wonderful future planned. We are now looking for another City fugitive who yearns for the chance to work for a small, ultra-smart, West End company who can offer superb long-term prospects. So if you have 60 wpm typing and are between 24 & 30, probably fed-up with large company bureaucracy but not with the financial business, why not use your City expertise? It's your ticket out of the City and eventually out of secretarial.

18-21 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone 0171 734 7341

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THE SECRET GARDEN

£16-17,000 + 9.30 start + Parking Space (or very easy bus/tube access) + extra Hols + LV's +++

...drive to work this Spring...sit in the heart of Kensington, amidst beautiful flowers, toasting yet another successful sale of an "elite" house. Working alongside this lovely Negotiator life will be a joy...and your future sunny. Because, whether your sights are set on negotiating or just a really fun "PA" job, this exciting sprouting company offers you opportunity at every turn. You must know MicroSoft Word for Windows (50wpm) because they don't!...but don't worry, the job is never more than 50% secretarial (& no shorthand) & it is your amazing way with Clients and your sunny outlook that will win you this prize! Are you 20 to 25? Call us - it could be you in the secret garden.

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A CREATIVE APPROACH...

Circa £18-20,000

These two top Design Directors aren't looking for an automaton...they've no time for Primadonnas...what they want more than anything is a real "right-hand", a Personal Assistant (late 20's) who can take control of situations in their absence... a fast-paced star they can trust. The job is never more than 40% secretarial and you will need the benefit of 55 typing (Presentation standards please) ...but the other 60% is all Client Administration and vital fascinating confidential work of the kind only found at the rock face of the Design world. Your talent for anticipating the next move is relied upon here. If you are a commercially-minded professional who is most at home at the centre of a creative world and you can demonstrate self-motivation, presence, style and mega-organisation talents... and that you are in fact a real "all-rounder" right hand - please call us, your creative approach is needed here.

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Telephone 071 734 7341

SUMMERS & CO
SPECIALIST RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA TO CEO
c£22,000 pa

Meaty PA/secretarial position needs confident, stylish contributor who enjoys a high profile role. CEO of well known PR company seeks seasoned professional with some previous relevant experience to whom he can delegate! 80/60 skills. Windows + graphics. Age 28 +

CLIENT DEVELOPMENT PA to £18,000

Lots of client hospitality to arrange in this varied secretarial role. Client Development Partner needs confident organiser with good communication skills. Proactive to develop role. 55 wpm audio & WP. Age 30+

Please call 071 637 3212

PA/ SECRETARY

A confident, well organised senior secretary is required for a busy private property & building company. An eye for detail and the ability to work both as part of a team and under pressure are essential.

Please send CV, stating current salary, to:

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Romulus Construction Ltd,
Sandford House,
10 Maynard Close,
Kings Rd,
London SW6 2DB.

19-23 yr old Secs
£16K + exc bens

Interesting & very varied role assisting young dynamic team in fun & social environ. Bens inc paid o/time, free b'fast /lunch, gym, training. 55 wpm typ, WP. 5 GCSEs.
Val Wade Rec Cons
071 437 3793

EXPORT CO
WANTED

Dynamic, mature go-getter to help MD keep ahead of the rest. Export experience pref. Computer literate. Good sec skills and Tel manner. Suit self-starter sal c£16K. Based Clapham. Send CV to Box No 3987

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Tuesday 7th March

within the Legal Appointments Section of The Times.

To advertise or for more information contact the Crème de la Crème team

Tel 0171 481 9994
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MT
MARSHALL TAPP

Creative Secretarial Recruitment Agency

requires skilled, well-presented and enthusiastic candidates for a host of recent job opportunities ranging from office juniors to top P.A.'s. Good typing and computer literacy (W4W, Ami-Pro, Applelnc, Powerpoint) essential.

Please call Tracy or Natalie on 0171 636 6282
2nd Floor, 42-44 Great Titchfield St, London W1P 7AE

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BASINGSTOKE

DO YOU DESERVE A PLACE IN THE BOARDROOM?

c£17,000 + MED + 5½ WKS HOLS

This countryside company can rival any major UK company any day! Because they've earned themselves a top place in the commercial business world, they're very precise about the people who work for them. Senior PAs here have to have high expectations about where they want to work. They should want a busy environment (because they're used to pressure), they should want client contact (because they are confident) they should understand & accept the pressure their Director is under (because they expect to work for someone who is well respected for what they do). We expect you know all of this & want this too! Interested, if you have 60wpm, aged 24+ with senior level experience, & want to work in beautiful offices with likeminded people, please call.

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Telephone 0171 734 7341

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Eager Beaver - School/ College Leaver

No Experience Needed!
£10-11,000 + 9.30 Start + 5 Weeks Hols ++

...the only technical skill you need for this superb first job is some accurate typing (40 wpm+!); aside from this you will need lots of enthusiasm because there is lots for you to do & learn in this exciting W1 company. You'll be scouring the papers to cut out press cuttings... You'll be sorting out the showreel library... You'll be trained to input high profile people's details on to a computer. In fact, you'll be so busy in this fast-moving office your feet just won't touch the ground. So if you are in your late teens, and a real Eager Beaver, please call us about this wonderful opportunity.

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Telephone 0171 734 7341

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Recruitment Consultants

HOME FROM HOME

£16,000

...is probably the best way to describe this professional St James's company. It's a small dedicated team of professionals looking for a person who can look after their correspondence, help out with seminars & generally run the office admin, like they would run their home, happily & with pride. The typing is very very minimal, but you'll need 60wpm & Windows. If you're a returner to work or aged up to 48, this would be ideal.

18-21 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone 0171 734 7341

PA/ SECRETARY

LONDON W1

To work with the two Directors of an International company of Surveyors.
The successful candidate will be required to have strong inter-personal skills, with both clients and staff, initiative, attention to detail and ability to work under pressure together with a high standard of secretarial skills, and a sense of humour.
The work will include providing a full secretarial service including co-ordinating hospitality and travel arrangements dealing with telephone enquiries, shorthand, typing using WordPerfect 5.1 and supervising other secretarial staff.
An attractive package will be paid commensurate with experience.
To apply, please write with full C.V. to Box No 3939

FASHION FIXER

£15,000 S.W.6

Are you a born organiser and a real self-starter? Do you thrive on using your initiative and being part of a close-knit team? If so, joining an expanding retail and wholesale fashion company could be the answer. You'll run the offices like clockwork, handle mail order bookings and generally be invaluable as the MD's 'right hand'. Fast Word for Windows essential. Age 21-35.

PLEASE CALL 071 376 7776
JIGSAW

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

An international firm of chartered surveyors seeks an enthusiastic and motivated person to work in its Personnel Department. The department provides core support services and the role demands an ability to cope with constantly changing priorites and to deal at all levels throughout the Firm.
The job comprises administrative and secretarial support with responsibility for the management of temporary staff, control of budgets, etc.
The right person will be well educated with sound administrative and secretarial experience.
Good computer literacy is essential with speeds of 50+ wpm. Windows or WordPerfect experience preferable although training will be provided.
Please send your CV and covering letter, stating salary requirements, to Geraldine Baylis, Recruitment Officer, Weatherall Green & Smith, 22 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1LT

PA - AGED 25-35

Name your salary - preferably above £23,000

Is there anybody out there who is London based, a non-smoker, preferably a Capricorn or Libra, a top Secretary/ PA and who wants to work as a member of a small, happy team in the Holborn Circus area?
I need somebody educated to A'level standard.
Other essential requirements are numeracy, trustworthiness, a pleasant manner, well spoken with Pitman S/H 100wpm.

Ring 0171 404 3111
NO AGENCIES

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
(WITH THE INSTITUTE OF BRITISH GEOGRAPHERS)

PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR

Interesting work on geography and environment. Agreeable surrounding in Central London. Plenty of work and need for initiative, secretarial skills, experience in committee administration and minute taking.

Salary range: £13,250 - £14,800

Apply with CV to:

The Director, Royal Geographical Society, (with the Institute of British Geographers), Kensington Gore, London, SW7 2AR.

Fax 071 225 1425.

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISERS

c£16,000

PA required for Partner and Senior Sales Consultant in small, friendly firm. Sense of humour, team spirit, willingness to learn and flexibility essential. Experience in secretarial duties including 60wpm W4W although Microsoft Excel & shorthand preferred but not essential.
Educated to A level standard. Age 25+.
Please send CV to J Russell, Francis House, Francis Street, London SW1P 1DE. No Agencies

SECRETARY

c£19K+ Bens

City Co. has new opportunity for smart team player with W4W exp & stable work history. Excellent career move.

FAIRSTAFF AGY
071 439 2051

PROJECT PA/CO-ORDINATOR
City £22,000 (6 month contract)
Must have excellent Powerpoint, Excel & Word skills & be willing to work 'desker' hours. Great opp to earn, get fully involved in project & take on own areas of responsibility. Contract renewable
Call Julia Davis on 081 878 0394 AWD Rec Cons

Diana Duggan Associates

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PKG £40,000

This is a HIGH RANKING challenging Exec PA position for a truely sophisticated PA with Style. Good Sec skills with Shorthand nec.
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THREE VACANCIES IN W1 MODEL AGENCY

A) Booker required to work in Model Agency. Candidates should have at least two years experience and excellent communication skills. Prior knowledge of the fashion industry is essential.

B) Experienced main floor Receptionist with typing skills.

C) Qualified Secretary required. Applicants should have a good standard of education and be computer literate.

For the above positions, please send your current CV to:

Fashion and Media Management Ltd
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London W1Y 9HA

PROPERTY £17,000

Use your excellent typing/ audio skills and knowledge of W4W in this busy investments department where you will be part of the team, liaising with clients. Beautiful West-End offices and a social, friendly atmosphere. Excellent benefits. Professional appearance and attitude.

C.P.C. 071-430 9021

FIRST JOBBER PRIVATE BANKING, WEST END £15,000+ BENEFITS!

A superb opportunity has arisen for an enthusiastic, well presented junior secretary in this dynamic corporate finance team. If you have good typing skills, S/H, W4W with a flexible and conscientious attitude, you could reap not only exceptional financial rewards, but also receive an excellent grounding on the first rung of your career/ working ladder.

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ASSISTANT IN PR £15,000

Assist two lovely account handlers in their late 30's, organising their busy schedules. You will be liasing with clients, and attending a development program in PR, and actively encouraged to become fully involved in a support role on the day-to-day handling of accounts. You will need your secretarial skills to assist you in your role as well as good organisational & administrative skills. This is a superb opportunity to become an integral part of a dynamic, successful team.

C.P.C. 071-430 9021

FACILITIES SECRETARY, W1

£16,000 + Superb Bens

Working for the Office Services Manager of this prestigious co your role will be a varied & interesting one, encompassing the full range of secretarial duties. Your boss is a hard working perfectionist with a great sense of humour who will value your excellent skills (100/70) & ability to communicate at all levels. Facilities or Customer Care experience an advantage.

Call Rachel on 636 1493.

BEAVERS
Personnel Recruitment Consultants

BUILD YOUR FUTURE

A PA is needed for the senior partner of a city practice specialising in construction and engineering law. He is looking for a confident and well organised individual with good litigation/commercial experience. PR skills also required, together with 60wpm and wordperfect 5.1.

Salary offered: Market Rate - Interested?

PLEASE SEND YOUR CV TO:
JO-ANNA JOSEPH
FREEDMAN CHURCH, 21 WHITEFRIARS STREET, LONDON EC4 8JJ.
(no telephone calls)

PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO A GENTLEMAN!

Slough area (car ess) c£19,000 plus exc bens

It is our pleasure to be recruiting the PA to the MD of this forward-thinking and hugely successful organisation. The MD is a most charming and highly respected man with the best standards of professionalism who will view his PA as a 'business partner'. Your time management skills will complement his and your SH sec skills will be excellent. Handle your own correspondence, exchange ideas and prepare him for the many meetings and seminars he attends.

Call Marie-Therese Feeley on 0171 831 0666

DRAKE INTERNATIONAL (Rec Cons)

SENIOR SECRETARY

P.A. to Managing Director required to work for a family company specialising in the supply of high quality playing cards, games and books to the retail trade. The suitable candidate must be able to take shorthand and be familiar with Words for Windows Microsoft 3.1, Microsoft XL and Microsoft Power Point. The position is a challenging and varied one. Some experience in buying would be an advantage. Competitive salary.

Please write with curriculum vitae to David Westnedge, David Westnedge Ltd., 5 Ferrier Street, London, SW18 1SN

ART WORLD

£20-25,000

...role has arisen, as it does comes on the open market. The ...ector is looking for a business minded PA for their ...
The role will involve managing a pressurised workload, top level overseas clients and planning programmes of art fairs/exhibitions. Some foreign travel may be necessary.
The right candidate is an utterly professional PA, socially adept, stylish, preferably with a business or client services background. Interests in art and languages (French) would be useful. Skills 100/60. All applications are positively welcomed. Contact us now at Angela Mortimer plc (Rec Cons) on:

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Angela Mortimer

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LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

FAX:
0171 782 7828

TRADING FLOOR OPPORTUNITY
£19,000 + MS + Bens

Do you excel under pressure? Are you a strong and organised character? Can you cope with juggling various tasks at once? If the answers to these questions are yes, please read on! An International City Bank has an immediate vacancy for a secretary with banking experience to work on the trading floor. Word for windows, Excel and Powerpoint desired. Age up to 28.

Please call Melinda Marks.
Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,
No. 1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel No. 0171-623 1266 Fax No. 0171-626 1242
JONATHAN WREN SECRETARIES

SENIOR CITY SEC
£17,000 + Bens

An interesting and involved position has arisen with this blue chip City organisation to work for the Company Secretary. Duties to include liaison with senior level staff, the supervision of a junior secretary and full administrative backup. The role would suit a professional personality with a solid word history and sound secretarial skills. Open on age range.

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JONATHAN WREN SECRETARIES

PERSONNEL JUNIOR
£14,500 + exc Bens

A definite opportunity to break into personnel! Expanding finance house is urgently seeking a secretary with a minimum of a year's experience to work within their busy personnel department. Supporting three Executives, the job requires an enthusiastic personality with ideally word for windows and audio experience.

Please call Melinda Marks.
Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,
No. 1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel No. 0171-623 1266 Fax No. 0171-626 1242
JONATHAN WREN SECRETARIES

PA/ADMIN ASST
£20,000

High profile position assisting this Vice President responsible for European Operations. It is an admin based role with very little typing. Lots of client liaison, organising cars, planes, meetings etc. Personality, confidence, style and board level experience essential. Age 28-44 years. Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

TOP TEMPS

With hourly pay rates of up to £10, loyalty bonus, paid bank holidays and cross training onto the latest systems, you know you are well looked after when you join our team of top calibre temporary secretaries and receptionists. So for immediate assignments in the City and West End please telephone Emma, Claire or Roberta on 0171 499 8070.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

SECRETARY
£15,000+ pa

Small professional medical society, based in London NW1, requires an experienced secretary. Applications are invited from well-educated candidates with a thorough working knowledge of WordPerfect 5.1 and, where appropriate, a willingness to learn other computer applications. Good communication skills (both written and oral), accuracy, numeracy and, above all, a flexible approach to work are essential qualities.

Please write, with CV, to the Director,
Massey's Executive Selection, Premier House,
10 Greycoat Place, London, SW1P 1SB

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
HUMAN RESOURCES

New Corporate Headquarters of successful multinational business publishing company, created as a result of merging elements of two extremely well known organisations, is offering the opportunity to work alongside their Group Human Resource Director whose responsibilities are global and predominantly at senior level. This is an excellent opportunity to work in a start-up situation, devising your own admin. systems, providing first class support (ideally with shorthand and MS Word for Windows) but with the scope to develop the role into wider areas of the HR function. Salary c£18,500+ oae. 5 weeks hols, pension.

Call Sue Doughty (Rec Con)
0171 491 7911

ADMINISTRATOR/ PA
EXHIBITION

The Organiser of this prestigious annual Exhibition of international repute, wishes to appoint an excellent PA/Administrator. Initially working alongside the existing administrator in the lead-up to this year's event, it is essential that the following qualities are possessed in abundance: Initiative, the ability to deal with stress, first class interpersonal and secretarial skills. The position encompasses a wide variety of tasks including copywriting, liaison with exhibitors, management of invoicing and budget control, coupled with the maintenance of faultless office systems. Experience of both WordPerfect & MS W/Windows (or MS Office) desirable. Salary c.£18,500 oae.

Call Sue Doughty (Rec Con)
0171 491 7911

IMMEDIATE START
SW1

A newly created position for a Junior Secretary to work for a team of highly professional people in existing PLC. You will work alongside the office manager who will broaden your horizons and give you special secretarial projects. You need to be 18-23 years old, have good audio typing skills and want involvement. C£13,000 + excellent package

JOYCE GUINESS PARTNERSHIP
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Tuesday 7th March

within the Legal Appointments Section of The Times.

To advertise or for more information contact the Crème de la Crème team

Tel 0171 481 9994
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CHELSEA ESTATE AGENTS

Require a junior secretary. Must be able to deal with general public and have good organisational skills. WordPerfect 5.1 essential. Salary Negotiable. Telephone Martin Elwes at Friend and Falcke 071 581 3022

CHARITY FUNDRAISERS

needed for worthwhile and rewarding work in friendly Fulham offices. Courteous telephone manner and confident personality essential. Commission only. Please phone 071-581 1597

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Required by the admissions office of BPP Law School, a private Law College in Holborn. Familiarity with Macintosh Systems, sound administrative and word processing skills essential. Salary range £13-£15K. Head Receptionist also required. Salary £12K.

For both positions, please apply with CV to Nicola Bello, BPP Law School, 126 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RX.

Small Head Office of Plc requires a smart PA for high profile MD.

First class skills essential - shorthand, letter writing and typing skills. Age 30+ pref. Excellent salary £20,000 +. Please send full CV, current salary and handwritten letter to: Christine Pickles, 16 Grosvenor Place, SW1X 7HH

SPANISH SPK LEGAL SEC - £19,500

Supporting Head of Department of this prestigious Law firm. Audio and Spanish essential. Contact Sheelagh Ratcliffe, Hillman Saunders Ltd (Rec Cons) Tel: 0171 929 0707 Fax: 0171 929 1666 Ref: S1773

Experienced Cordon Bleu/Tania Marie Qualified Cook

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EUMETSAT
EUROPEAN ORGANISATION FOR THE EXPLOITATION OF METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITES ORGANISATION EUROPEENNE POUR L'EXPLOITATION DE SATELLITES METEOROLOGIQUES

EUMETSAT is an intergovernmental European Organisation of 17 Member States
** Austria * Belgium * Denmark * Finland * France * Germany * Greece * Ireland * Italy * Netherlands * Norway * Portugal * Spain * Sweden * Switzerland * Turkey * United Kingdom **

Suitably qualified candidates (male or female) from EUMETSAT member states are invited to apply for the following post:

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DANCE page 38
Prix de Lausanne: one of the world's top ballet competitions takes its entrants to the Bolshoi

ARTS

THEATRE page 39
Stephen Rea takes time off from Hollywood to play Uncle Vanya in Northern Ireland



A film-maker for our time?

A *Natural Born Killers* comes to Britain, **David Robinson** hears Oliver Stone's free-flowing views on murder, morality and movie-making

After months of widely publicised hesitation by the Board of Film Classification, Oliver Stone's *Natural Born Killers* opens in Britain on Friday. So how did the American film-maker finally persuade British censors to relent? "It wasn't a matter of relenting," he explains. "The true story is that Mr Fermin, the secretary of the board, was always very 'admirative' of the film. He thought it was a breakthrough and wanted it to be seen.

"The issues were first that there was a division in the board – several of the others disliked the film — and then the matter of timing. The tabloid came out with the copycat murder theories, alleging that 12 murders had been inspired by the film, at the same time that Parliament was discussing violence in the media and the Child's Play issue. Mr Fermin felt that the convergence of events made it impossible for him to get it through at that time. But went in front of the board and answered their questions as to my motive, and he finally passed it during a quiet season over Christmas when everyone was out of town."

When I spoke to him, Stone was on his way to Oxford to address the Union. Once he was in his stride, talking at machine-gun rate and tumbling over his sentences, the interview could have been a rehearsal. It was clear, certainly, that he had said all this not once but many times before.

"The movie is about the hypocrisy of a society and a culture going to hell. In the 1980s we have a society that has become insane. The whole concept of the news itself has been distorted by television. It's become more and more an entertainment, done for money. The concept of O.J. Simpson dominating the airwaves is an amazement to me. Billions of dollars have been made out of it. It's a social issue, because he's taking up the psychic space that should be devoted to news and analysis of world events.

"Tonya Harding occupied our national consciousness for weeks. It was insane, silly — two women have a cat fight, and the next thing you know it's on the front page of *The New York Times*. A woman cuts off her husband's penis — it was front page news and was again used to make millions of dollars for the networks. This is a continuing hysteria in my country. It is a fantasy, a madness, a fin-de-siècle delirium of mass hysteria. And that's what I was really interested in in *Natural Born Killers*. That's why I made the film in a hysterical fashion: the style approximates the content of an era gone amok."

But are films like his part of the problem? "I think that a film, because it takes a year and a half or two years to make, can take a deeper look at an event. It becomes an active interpretation, an artistic action. I believe my movie is not the media. It's more like a painting, an act of interpretation like a Jackson Pollock or Picasso's *Guernica*. I think you will look back on this movie in the year 2020 or 2030 and say this was what the 1990s were about."

The original script for *Natural Born Killers* was by Quentin Tarantino: the combination of the 30-year-old director of *Pulp Fiction* and Stone, 50 next year, might not seem an obvious one. Tarantino's films display a cheerful acceptance of a fin-de-siècle moral chaos, while Stone, as his claims of kinship with Picasso and Pollock suggest, has assumed a positively crusading posture, in films such as *Salvador*, *Platoon*, *Wall Street* and *JFK*.

> "I am like you, living through this time, seeing the absurdity around me"

Before this series of controversial subjects though, he had won a reputation with his violent, male-dominated scripts for *Midnight Express*, *Scarface* and *Year of the Dragon*; he now says that he would have liked to direct the two latter films. "I had been looking to do a criminal movie and finally in the 1990s I have that possibility.

"Quentin had written this script years before. But in his screenplay the central character was the TV journalist. Mickey and Mallory, the killers, who are now my main characters, were only supporting characters. They were unchanging, only symbols. I wanted to go more into their history. And I wanted to explore the culture of violence in our society, with a lot of socio-political imagery.

"I couldn't have directed Quentin's script as it was, brilliant though the idea was. Quentin was very upset that I had rewritten the script, and he has badmouthed the movie everywhere in the world. It is a shame. It hurt us."

But not too much, obviously. "In America we did 50 million dollars, which is amazing, because it is a much misunderstood film, not easily accessible. Our biggest audience was young people, who see that it is an honest film. The theme is that love beats the demon. It's sort of corny but Mickey and Mallory do kiss. They do need each other. It's this sort of Romeo and Juliet theme. Kids respond to that. They think Mickey and Mallory are heroes."

By this time, reeling from Stone's vision of a morality and heroes for the Nineties, I feel foolishly old-world in asking if he is in so many words condoning them. "Well you may say that this is an awful moral standard for young people. Yes, but you have to look at the relativism in the movie. I agree. 52 murders is something you can never condone. But the truth is that those 52 murders are relative to the mass murders that have occurred in this whole 20th century. I show images of Hitler and Stalin on the back projection. Look at the whole picture, I'm saying. Look at their back story. Look at their parents. Look at what they do. Judge it in the sight of the cosmos. Look at the whole world and the whole century. Mickey and Mallory are the by-product of a century.

"I do not condone murder. I am a Buddhist. I am like you, living through this time, seeing the absurdity around me, the madness. I don't know if I condemn it, I'm not sure I'm comfortable condemning it because maybe that is the destiny of this era, to take us in that direction."

The moral waters seem to be getting no shallower or clearer. So does he enjoy the kind of controversy that rages around his latest film? "When you get controversies over issues that are non-issues it is bothering. *Natural Born Killers* would have made more money if it had been less controversial. All we heard on this film was about the violence, when really it is the idea of the movie that is subversive — the idea that these people can kill 52 people and get away with it; and that the media are made to seem more evil than the killers."

Stone's next project is also bound to be hotly debated: a film about Richard Nixon. "I feel we should go back and look at Richard Nixon, at both sides, good and bad. Everything he said in 1946 when he first got elected to a Republican seat has come true. He made politics into war and that's what is happening now. They are fighting to the death with each other. I think he has a lot to say about our era. A very, very contradictory man who hoist himself with his own petard."

The director plans to cast Anthony Hopkins as Richard Nixon. "He will be good because of his invisibility. You can't have a star in that role. You need somebody invisible, a character actor like Kingsley or Hopkins." And just when we optimistic British thought we had a star of our own.

DES JENSON



Oliver Stone on his own film: "*Natural Born Killers* is about the hypocrisy of a society and a culture going to hell"

LONDON CONCERTS

French with a few too many tears

Ysayë Festival
Wigmore Hall

THE re-creation of a festival (in this case that of St Nazaire) and all that goes with it — the teeming programmes, the rendezvous of young soloists and chamber musicians from all over Europe — is something the Wigmore Hall now has to a fine art.

This latest *divertissement* is a tribute to the great Belgian violinist and composer Eugène Ysayë. He took over where Wieniawski left off, acted as tireless midwife to the rebirth of French music in the 1870s, and ended up performing with the likes of Busoni and Rachmaninov.

If the opening concert was anything to go by, both performers and audiences will be on their knees by the end of the week. There is little relief from the passionate, expansive idiom of these turn-of-the-century works. And, on Saturday at least, there was little in the performances which tempered passion with sophistication, the extrovert with the inward.

Two major works framed the evening: Fauré's Piano Quintet, played by the Chilingirian Quartet and Jeremy Menuhin; and Chausson's Concert in D for violin (Philippe Graffin), piano (Pascal Devoyon) and string quartet (Chilingirian). Both were dedicated to Ysayë: both were played with almost overwhelming enthusiasm.

The voice of Ysayë himself was heard in Devoyon's and Graffin's performance of the *Poème élégiaque* for violin and piano (dedicated to Fauré). Graffin clearly loves Ysayë's music dearly. The burnished quality of his vibrato, and its unique tone, fusing strength with sweetness, made for a stylish opening signature to the series.

And then, the one *bonne bouche* of the evening. Jeremy Menuhin and Pascal Devoyon joined forces mischievously for the Fauré/Messager *Souvenirs de Bayreuth*, a marvellously disrespectful, yet not unaffectionate, salon fantasy for four hands on all the best tunes from *The Ring*.

HILARY FINCH

In order to please

Philharmonia/ Dohnányi
Festival Hall

BRAHMS back-to-front is the subject of Christoph von Dohnányi's pair of concerts with the Philharmonia. *Hilary Finch writes.* The orchestra's principal guest conductor began with the mighty Fourth Symphony and will end next Monday with the First. This is a cunning strategy: the ears are at their most receptive for the most demanding work; Brahms's musical thinking falls into revealing retrospective shape; and preconceptions are given a good dusting out.

So it was that the Fourth became, for once, a lively upbeat to all that was to follow. Dohnányi's approach to the work, characteristically lucid and meticulous of ensemble, emphasised this.

Dohnányi would finely hone the line of the strings at the appearance of the horns, so that, when at last upbeat becomes downbeat, the cutting edge would be razor-sharp. This, in turn, gave the illusion of an extreme pianissimo from strings and wind at the start of the second movement.

The scherzo-like nature of the third movement was predictable; yet the whiplash of bow on string as its material became more and more compressed still stung unexpectedly. Each of the finale's 32 variations was clearly characterised.

Brahms declared of the Second Symphony that he had "never written anything so sad, and the score must come out in mourning". Dohnányi took him at his word though, typically, he made the music wear its black crêpe lightly.

The fine details of articulation in the opening movement created a sense of shifting shades of grey; horns and woodwind breathed into a light, chill air. Although Michael Collins's clarinet was missed in a somewhat unbeguiling third movement, Dohnányi's austere approach was vindicated in a balanced and rhythmic finale.

ARCHITECTURE: **Marcus Binney** on an exhibition dedicated to an 18th-century pioneer

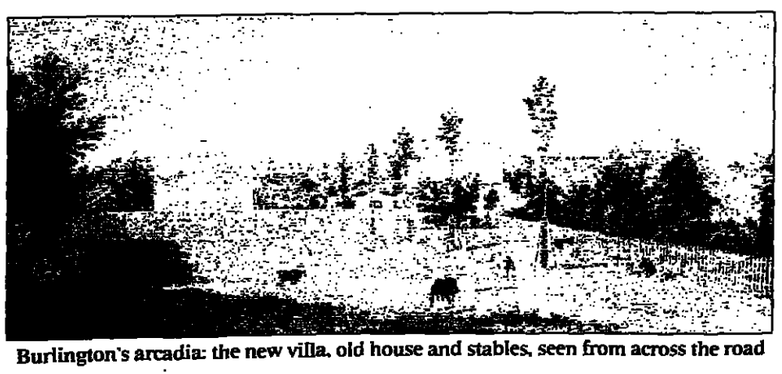
Building on the past

This Royal Academy exhibition goes far to resolving one of the great riddles of English architecture. Was Richard Boyle, 3rd Earl of Burlington, just an accomplished amateur, like many 18th-century country gentlemen, or was he a virtual professional?

One of Burlington's contemporaries, Lord Chesterfield, wrote in a famous letter to his son that the pioneer of English Palladianism had "lessened himself" by getting to know the mechanical parts of architecture too well. Yet Count Algarotti, living with Frederick the Great, discussed Burlington in the same breath as Palladio and Inigo Jones.

In this exhibition the curator, John Harris, shows that the key to Burlington's career was his "stupendous acquisition" of the drawings of both Jones and Palladio in 1720-21. Four years later he began the design of Chiswick House in west London.

Burlington's method of working was to find a precedent for every detail and motif. If this sounds slavish, this was the century in which Goethe watched the Academy at Vicenza carry the motion "imitation is superior to invention" by a large majority. The apostles of neo-classicism sought to purify art from what they saw as the excesses of the Baroque by returning to the simplicity of the Antique. Here Burlington had a remarkable 30-year start on almost everyone on the Continent.



Burlington's arcadia: the new villa, old house and stables, seen from across the road

As relatively few of the architectural drawings in his collection were labelled or inscribed, Burlington did not always know what he was using as a model. So the very rich ceiling of the little gallery linking his villa with the adjacent Jacobean house was copied from a drawing of a Roman ceiling at Pozzuoli.

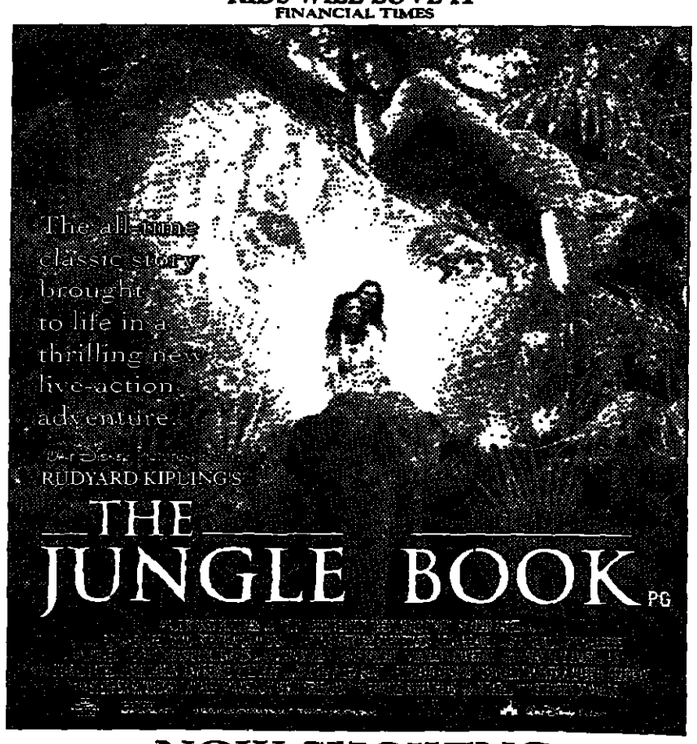
By contrast, the remarkable scrolled ceiling of the Blue Velvet Room, usually attributed to the designer William Kent because of its voluptuousness, came from a Renaissance design by a Mantuan architect, the wild card in the collection.

Among the most beautiful items in the exhibition are the numerous paintings, drawings and engravings of the Chiswick gardens. These are remarkable for showing the degree of perfection the English lawn had reached even in the early 18th century.

Just as Chiswick House was a Veneto villa in miniature, so the grounds were a microcosm of garden art. Everything that Italy, France and Holland had to offer — topiary, arbours, clipped orange trees, a wilderness and bowling green, statues, urns, grottoes, cascades, fountains and canals — were here, as well as Kent's new notion of informal gardening without "level or line".

● The Palladian Revival: Lord Burlington, his Villa and Garden at Chiswick *is at the Royal Academy (0171-439 7438), until April 2.*

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FINANCIAL TIMES



NOW SHOWING
AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

LONDON

BROKEN GLASS. Arthur Miller's masterly drama, distilling his lifelong concern with personal responsibility. Henry Goodman and Margot Leicester are superb as the central Jewish couple in David Thacker's production, transferring from the National for a ten-week season. Nationwide tour follows.
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Previews tonight and tomorrow, 7.45pm. Opens Fri.

HAYDN IN LONDON. Raymond Leppard and the English Chamber Orchestra celebrate the 200th anniversary of Haydn's visit to London with a performance of his *Scena di Berenice* and Symphony No 103 in E flat, *Drumroll*. Works from Mozart and Violin round out the programme. Yvonne Kenny and Stephanie Gonley are the soloists.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 8pm.

SPRING LOADED: The annual dance-fest opens here this week after an earlier taste at the South Bank. Twenty-two small British dance companies will play over the next 12 weeks, showing a wide range of choreography, mostly by young creators selected for being fresh, vigorous and determined. *The Gandini Juggling Project* and JazzeXchange start the series.
Place, Duke's Road, WC1 (0171-387 0031). Tonight, 8pm.

SPANISH STILL LIFE. A rare opportunity to see a still-life tradition that is under-represented here but as old and important as that of Italy and Holland. The artists span the range from Velásquez to Goya and in between you will find Sánchez Cotán, Van der Hamen, Zurbarán, Pereda and Luis Meléndez.
National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (0171-839 3321). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm; Wed to 8pm; Sun, 2pm-6pm. Today until May 21. Late opening Wed: exhibition galleries with live music (reduced admission from 5.15pm at £2).

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: Sir Simon Rattle and the **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra** launch this season's *Towards the Millennium* festival, which will be dedicated to the arts of the *1940s. Tonight's programme includes* works from Stravinsky, Messiaen and Bartók, with pianist Paul Crossley and the ladies of the CBSO Chorus.
Symphony Hall, Broad Street (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm. Repeated Thurs in **Cardiff** (01222 *371236*) *and Fri in* **London** (*0171-928 8800*)

OXFORD: Oxford University students present the European premiere of **The Woodlanders,** an operatic version of what is reputed to be Thomas Hardy's favourite story. Adapted by the American composer Stephen *Paulus*, with an impressive line-up of soloists who have appeared with English Touring Opera, Glyndebourne, British Youth Opera and Opera Factory.
Playhouse, Beaumont Street (0865 798600). Tonight-Thurs and Sat, 7.30pm; Fri, 8pm.

GLASGOW: Norwegian pianist **Leif Ove Andsnes** shows his extraordinary talent in a recital tonight of works by Haydn, Nielsen, Janacek, Liszt and Rachmaninov. Just 25 this year, Andsnes has already performed with a bevy of the world's leading orchestras and is without doubt a name to watch.
Royal Concert Hall, Buchanan Street (041-227 5511). Tonight, 7.30pm.

SOUTHAMPTON. English National Ballet revives Rudolf Nureyev's production of *Romeo and Juliet* after an absence of eight years from the British stage. Created for the company in 1977, this *Romeo* is probably the most dramatic and faithful to Shakespeare of any ballet version. Set to Prokofiev's monumental score, with designs by Ezio Frigerio.
Mayflower, Commercial Road (01703 *229771*). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Impressionism in Britain (0171-638-4141) . . . **British Museum:** Byzantine Treasures from British Collections *(0171-636 1555)* . . . **Courtauld:** Frank Dobson: Sculpture 1915-1954 (071-873 2526) . . . **Hayward:** Yves Klein (071-928 3144) . . **National Gallery:** The Age of Elegance (0171-839 3321) . . . **Royal Academy:** Nicolas Poussin (0171-439 *7438*) . . **Serpentine:** Man Ray (0171-402 6075) . . **Tate:** Willem de Kooning (0171-887 8000) . . . **V & A:** Warworks: Women Photographers (0171-938 8500)

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

■ **AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'** The Fats Waller musical show: an evening of stomping, tapping, exuberant song and dance.
Tricycle, Kilburn High Rd, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Tonight-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Returns in person at the box office from 7pm only. Transferring to the Lyric from Mar 8. ◪

☐ **CELL MATES.** Rik Mayall and Stephen Fry play Sean Bourke and George Blake, the very odd couple together in Wormwood Scrubs and Moscow. Simon Gray directs his own play.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-389 1730). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

■ **DEALER'S CHOICE** Patrick Marber's fascinating poker drama. Funny one-liners abound, along with perceptions of the roots of gambling.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Today, 2.30 and 7.30pm. ◪

■ **THE DUCHESS OF MALFI.** Juliet Stevenson suffers, Simon Russell Beale writhes, in a production that isn't quite there yet but should improve before its projected West End transfer.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill SE10 (0181-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. Until Mar 25. ◪

◪ **EASTER** Strindberg's drama of shame, self-pity, penance, clairvoyant joy in nature and the freedom of spring-time. Katie Mitchell directs.
Pit, Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2pm. ◪

☐ **IN PRAISE OF LOVE:** Peter Bowles and Lisa Harrow in Rattigan drama about being very brave when facing death. Richard Oliver directs.

■ **APOLLO, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1** (0171-494 5070). Now previewing, 8pm. Opens March 6.

☐ **INDIAN INK:** Felicity Kendal, Margaret Tyzack and Art Malik in Tom Stoppard's new play, set in unknowable India in 1930 and a Shepperton bungalow today. Peter Wood directs.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003). Now previewing, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3pm. Opens Feb 27.

☐ **KILLER JOE:** Utterly absorbing shock-drama by Tracy Letts where a trash-trailer family virtually annihilates itself by employing a hit-man to kill their unwanted Mom. Wilson Milam directs the original Chicago production, transferring from the Bush.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until Apr 1.

☐ **MAMA I WANT TO SING:** The longest-running Off-Broadway black musical, based on the life of the Harlem singer Doris Troy (who here plays her own mother). With Chaka Khan.
Cambridge, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Tue and Sat, 3pm. Until Apr 8.

☐ **STRICTLY ENTRE NOUS.** Dudley Sutton plays W H Auden when old and Rupert Holliday-Evans when young, in Vince Foxall's wry and convincing play set in a shabby Viennese hotel.

BAC, Lavender Hill, Battersea, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Tue-Sat, 8pm; Sun 6pm. Until Mar 11. ◪

☐ **TEMPORARY GIRL.** Lisa Kolin's American hit solo show, on how to get by as an office temp while bursting to break into showbiz.
Cockpit, Gateforth Street, NW8 (0171-402 5081). Mon-Sat, 8pm. ◪

◪ **ZORRO — THE MUSICAL.** The masked swashbuckler rights wrongs, defies gravity and gives the audience a great time in a typically rumbustious Ken Hill show.
Theatre Royal, Gerry Raffles Square, Stratford, E15 (0181-534 0310). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Mar 2, 2pm and Mar 11 and 18, 3pm. Until Mar 18. ◪

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Arcadia:** Haymarket (0171-930 8800) . . ☐ **Blood Brothers:** Phoenix (0171-867 1044) . . ☐ **Copacabana:** Prince of Wales (0171-839 5972) . . ☐ **Don't Dress for Dinner:** Duchess (0171-494 5070) . . ☐ **Five Guys Named Moe:** Lyric, final week (0171-494 5045) ◪ **Miss Saigon:** Theatre Royal (0171-494 5400) . . ☐ **The Mousetrap:** St Martin's (0171-836 1443) ■ **Oliver!:** Palladium (0171-494 5020) . . . ☐ **On Approval:** Playhouse, final week (0171-839 4401) ■ **The Phantom of the Opera:** Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) . . . ☐ **She Loves Me:** Savoy (0171-836 8888) . . . ◪ **The Sisters Rosensweig:** Old Vic, final week (0171-928 7616) . . ◪ **Sunset Boulevard:** Adelphi (0171-344 0055) . . ■ **Three Tall Women,** Wyndhams (0171-369 1736) . . . ◪ **The Woman in Black:** Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

Swiss Cottage (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION: How to survive long decades in prison. Engrossing drama with Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman.
Odeon Leicester Sq (01426 915683)

CURRENT

EAT DRINK MAN WOMAN (PG) Delectable mosaic of Taipei family life from the director of *The Wedding Banquet, Ang Lee.*
Warner ◪ (0171-437 4343)

HEAVENLY CREATURES (18) Strange, fatal friendship of two New Zealand teenagers. Compelling, imaginative, true-life drama from director Peter Jackson.
Gate ◪ (0171-727 4043) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **MGM Fulham Road** ◪ (0171-370 2636) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Hill** ◪ (0171-435 3366)

◆ **INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE** (18): Tom Cruise shows Brad Pitt the vampire way of life. Dull, over-stuffed version of Anne Rice's book. Director, Neil Jordan.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **ONLY YOU** (PG) Marisa Tomei chases the man of her dreams through Italy. Lazy blend of comedy, romance and travelogue, with Robert Downey Jr. Director, Norman Jewison.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Mezzanine** ◪ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **THE ROAD TO WELLVILLE** (15): Frolics and chicanery at a turn-of-the-century sanitarium. Overdone health food satire, with Anthony Hopkins.
Barbican ◪ (0171-638 8891) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Mezzanine** ◪ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **SHALLOW GRAVE** (18). Wickedly enjoyable comedy-thriller about three Edinburgh chums and a corpse loaded with money. Danny Boyle directs.
Barbican ◪ (0171-638 8891) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Screen/ Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **SOLITAIRE FOR 2** (15): Body-language lecturer pursues archaeologist with ESP. Awkward comedy from *Pig Farmer* co-director Gary Sinyor. With Mark Frankel and Amanda Pays.
MGM Trocadero ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Plaza** ◪ (0800 888897) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **STAR TREK: GENERATIONS** (PG) Talky but acceptable film debut for the stars of television's *Star Trek: The Next Generation.* Patrick Stewart meets William Shatner. David Carson directs.
Empire ◪ (0800 888911) **MGM Baker St** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Rd** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (782 3332)

NEW RELEASES

◆ **ANDRE** Adventures of an orphaned seal. Well-packaged family film with Keith Carradine, Tina Majorino and a scene-stealing sea lion. Director, George Miller.
MGM Trocadero ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** ◪ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** (0800 888997) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

BANDIT QUEEN: Dynamic, controversial drama about India's legendary outlaw; a ground-breaking production by Shekhar Kapur.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520)

◆ **BLACK BEAUTY** Unsatisfying, gloomy version of the children's classic, featuring Sean Bean and David Thewlis. Director, Caroline Thompson.
Barbican ◪ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

CAMILLA: Whimsical swansong for Jessica Tandy, an aged concert violinist who rejuvenates a younger woman (Bridget Fonda). Director, Deepa Mehta.
MGM Shaftesbury (0171-836 6279)

HOLY MATRIMONY Sexpot joins an Anabaptist community. Queasy, unfunny comedy-m with Patricia Arquette. Director, Leonard Nimoy.
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561)

◆ **RUDYARD KIPLING'S THE JUNGLE BOOK.** Muddled live-action adventures of jungle boy Mowgli. With Jason Scott Lee, Lena Headey, Cary Elwes. Director, Stephen Sommers.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666)

On their toes at the Bolshoi

DANCE: In Moscow, **John Percival** watches one of the world's top ballet competitions

PETER RIEVNOR



Prix de Lausanne winners in the Royal Ballet: Darcey Bussell (left), Adam Cooper, Nicola Searchfield, Anne Vos, Leanne Benjamin, Jane Burn, Stuart Cassidy, Viviana Durante, Deborah Bull and Tetsuya Kumakawa

The annual Prix de Lausanne deserves to be much better known than it is in Britain, considering that half of the Royal Ballet's present principal dancers have been among its winners. Not to mention others now on the strength of Birmingham Royal Ballet, English National Ballet and Rambert Dance Company, and many more in the past.

The British ballet establishment tends to be sniffy about the international dance competitions that have proliferated since the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture astutely started one in the Black Sea resort of Varna in 1964, thus gaining *tourists and publicity. Dancing,* we reckon, is supposed to be about art, not virtuoso displays. But there is another side to the coin: competing can motivate young dancers and develop their talents quickly.

The Prix de Lausanne is different from the rest because it is only for dancers before they start their professional careers. Girls from 15 to 17 and boys up to 18 can win scholarships or cash prizes to help with further study. What the judges are looking for is talent and potential.

Candidates come from all over the world: 112 of them from 27 countries this year. And although the standard varies, I would bet that even some who were eliminated before the final are going to make a mark. Watch out especially for the two top winners. Garcia Portero Gonzalo, from Spain, is only just 15, but he is a born performer and already gives an adult depth to his melancholy free-style solo. Jean-Luc Burke, French, is 17 but only started dancing three years ago. His *Corsair* solo could put many professionals to shame.

Among the women, I specially admired the Czech contestant, Barbora Kohutkova, serene in her *Raymonda* solo, spirited and stylish in the *Stairway to Paradise* number from Balanchine's *Who Cares?* My eye was also caught by tall, beautiful Nelly Beliakaite from Lithuania, elegant in her *Sleeping Beauty* solo, and surprisingly following it with a blissfully comic solo to music by the American avant-gardist, Meredith Monk.

This year, halfway through, the competition moved from Switzerland to Moscow and I went along to watch. Twice before in the contest's 23 years of activity there have been similar sidetrips, designed to reach new competitors: one to New York, the other to Japan. This always complicates the usually straightforward procedure, but all the more so in present-day Moscow, where to say that conditions are not easy would be a serious understatement.

The willingness to be helpful is palpable, but bureaucracy runs wild and the contrast between rich and poor seems comparable with Britain. The situation is complicated by the existence of two currencies, the rouble and the US dollar, with two price scales for many things: a seat at the Bolshoi can cost ten times as much to a visitor as to a local. The Bolshoi Theatre is still standing, but some of its backstage areas make Covent Garden's protestations of poor conditions ring hollow.

This celebrated stage was where the last two rounds of the Lausanne competition were held this year, and if its reputation — and its size — were daunting for the young entrants, they did not let that show. What some of them did find unsettling was holding the competition in two sections. Those from Western countries assembled as usual in Lausanne and went through the initial rounds there.

Normally everything proceeds with swift momentum. The first day is spent attending dance classes, ballet and modern, to let the contestants settle down and get used to the teachers and the studios. On the second day the jurors, 11 distinguished dance professionals, watch the ballet classes and eliminate any candidates falling below a minimum acceptable level.

Next day, the jury watches the modern classes, then sees each candidate, starting with the youngest, dance a solo she or he has chosen from a set list of classic ballets. The semi-finalists are selected in this way. It was at this stage that they were flown to Moscow, where they had to wait around (with adrenalin levels subsiding and only limited rehearsal time) while the candidates from Russia, Japan and other Eastern countries went through their opening rounds. Only when the Moscow candidates reached the semi-final stage did the first batch of semi-finalists take part again.

Now, at last, they place their classroom gear with full costume and stage make-up and dance before a paying public. As well as the classical solo, each gives another, intended to provide a contrasting style. The judges then have to choose 15 of the 34 semi-finalists to go on to the next day's final. Three or four borderline cases, I would guess, occupied most of the discussion.

And so to the final, transmitted live on Eurovision, the awarding of prizes, the thanking of sponsors, the heart-break and the hopes. How many stars of the future have I just seen in their bouts? No Britons got through this year but, on past showing, some of those who did will arrive in British companies.

We owe a lot more than cuckoo clocks to the Swiss — and already the organisers are hard at work on next year's Prix de Lausanne.

Simon Tait reports from Cardiff on an imaginatively funded new venue which opens tonight

Graphic picture of a successful partnership

THE idea of turning a redundant church into a theatre is hardly new. There is scarcely a city centre in Britain without one, and the story of St Stephen's in Cardiff Bay has a familiar ring.

Opened in 1986 as St Stephen's Theatre Space by a small theatre company, Moving Being, it was modestly successful in filling about half of its 100 seats during its three-month seasons. Then it was hit by recession, and its owners were unable to handle the costs of running a theatre company and a building — another familiar story.

But the familiarity ends there. The theatre, now called The Point, opens again today as arguably the most important development for new Welsh theatre and writing, and with financial security.

"Welsh stage-writing in English has been stifled for the lack of outlets," says Gilly Adams, artistic director of the Made in Wales Stage Company, which opens a ten-week season to inaugurate The Point. "A lot of good Welsh writers felt closed out and drifted away to television. The Point is incredibly important for the new generation that's breaking through."

Dic Edwards is a member of that new generation, and he says it has been easier to get his work produced in Glasgow than in Wales. His *Utah Blue*, a surreal piece about the murderer Gary Gilmore, is The Point's opening production.

The second production in the season will be a play by Lucinda Coxon about a Welsh woman travelling as a man to Nova Scotia in the 1920s, which Adams is directing herself. It is called, appropriately, *Waiting at the Waterside*, for The Point stands in the spectral shadow of the Cardiff Bay Opera House and is the first new artistic enterprise in the renascent Tiger Bay dockside area. It has come about almost by accident.

Next door is a company of graphic designers, Design Stage, led by Steve Allison, which 18 months ago decided to expand into a larger building. The theatre company was in financial trouble, and Allison offered to buy the theatre. His wife and partner is Maggie Russell, a theatre producer. She persuaded him to abandon the original plan of having printing machines in the main body of the church and to refit it as a theatre.

"It was the perfect opportunity to bring business and the arts together," she says. "Design Stage could split the running costs of the building with the theatre, and we wouldn't require revenue support to keep the building open."

The refurbishment has rescued a Grade II listed church, built a century ago as the Dockside church and boasting two William Morris windows. The project is costing £425,000, some of which has come from the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation, with a small contribution from the Inner Harbour Partnership, a group of potential tourist attractions in the bay which have banded together to support each other.

Marion Davies, the corporation's director of arts and tourism, describes their involvement as inward investment. "The Point is the first to open as a new attraction, and we see it as the beginning of Cardiff's new cultural quarter. It is that important.

● Utah Blue *by Dic Edwards ops tonight at The Point, West Bute Strt, Cardiff (01222 484017)*

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THEATRE: Field Day fights back in Londonderry; a West End outing for Noel Coward; Scottish mooncalf among Australian tigers

Looking a bit pale, Uncle

Uncle Vanya
Guildhall, Derry

The Prudential Arts Award given to Field Day Theatre Company in 1992 honoured its 12 years as a producer of new Irish drama and a commitment to touring, on both sides of the border, that took the company to venues where professional drama seldom reached. Immediately after receiving the award, Field Day declined from its high noon to sudden nightfall. A rehearsed reading was as far as the funding would stretch that year, and in 1993 Stephen Rea (co-founder of the company with Brian Friel) concentrated on his film career — most notably in *The Crying Game*.

Twelve months ago Friel resigned from the board and Field Day looked set permanently for the dark. But the sun has risen again. Rea has taken time off from Hollywood, and Chekhov, the most Irish of foreign writers, is the opening choice of Field Day's new day.

The company took the risk of inviting the press to the first performance of Frank McGuinness's Irished version, in Peter Gill's production, with Rea — shoulders drooping, expression hang-dog — in the title role. There have been no previews, nor a preliminary tour. The tour begins next week, and as the production moves on its way to Dublin, Cork, Tralee and ten other Irish venues, finishing at London's Tricycle in April, it may become what it has yet to be: deeper and, paradoxically, lighter.

At the moment, this is an excessively dry production. Gill has introduced severe emotional restraints into the play precisely where the reverse is wanted, in the playing of Vanya and Elena, the beautiful young second wife of Sonya's father, whose stay at the family estate provokes such agitation and despair.

Kim Thomson opens with over-deliberate enunciation, and though this could serve as the means for conveying her indolence, it comes with a stiffness that, among other disadvantages, makes it hard to appreciate that she is casting a spell over Vanya and Dr Astrov.

The map-reading scene between her and Enda Oates's *Astrov can be considered fanatical and unfeeling* — the lines will support this — but to do so is to take the palest view of him.

But then the production takes a pale view of everyone. They are emphatically an irritable lot and seldom allow us to find their complaints also comical. Actors who play Vanya can suggest, through tone of voice, the pain and the absurdity of his late-found attempts to haul his life into something meaningful. Rea is finally moving in his Act IV grief, and he has a funny moment when, asking his censorious mother for advice, he covers her mouth to stop her giving any. But between his own censorious attacks on the hated brother-in-law, he relapses into a crestfallen posture that often consigns him to the periphery of our attention.

The comedy of his entrance with a bouquet at exactly the wrong moment is lost, and while it is an interesting notion to show triumphant relief at twice failing to shoot Serebryakov (well played by Denys Hawthorne), this response is not integrated into his previous or subsequent behaviour.

McGuinness's text introduces pleasing colloquialisms — Astrov says, "Look at these boys," pointing to his moustaches — and I suppose it is all right to make Vanya follow, "I know there's no chance," — addressed to Elena — with a hopeful "Next to no chance?", though I do not find the equivalent of this delusion in other versions. But he and Gill have little patience with scenes designed to show the snail-like passing of time. The first and last acts end abruptly, although this may be because the actor playing Telyegin (P. G. Stephens) is reluctant to play his guitar.

The action is played against a frieze of unstained planks of wood, above three blank openings in a green wall, while the floor is another oblong of planks, islanded in bark chips. The men and the older women move silently on this, but not the younger couple, and my lingering impression of this production is likely to be the sound of Elena and Sonya (Zara Turner, touchingly foolish) click-clock-clacking around each other on what, invisible beneath their long skirts, must surely be high-heeled clogs.

JEREMY KINGSTON

JOHN HAYNES



Stephen Rea (standing) in the title role of Frank McGuinness's version of *Uncle Vanya*: Field Day's production is too dry and places too many restraints on the emotional content

GALLERIES: Somerset Maugham's collection of theatrical paintings

Actors in face paint

After an ill-fated sojourn at the National Theatre, to which it was originally bequeathed, W. Somerset Maugham's collection of theatrical paintings — some 80 oils and watercolours — has arrived at the Theatre Museum (0171-836 7891) — a stone's throw from Drury Lane and Covent Garden where the players plied their trade in the golden age of British theatre.

And it is where the artists, preying on the vanity of the actors, set up their studios. Samuel De Wilde, one of the painters best represented here, painted hundreds of actors at his Covent Garden office in the 1790s, charging two guineas for a watercolour and up to 12 for an oil.

The pictures are mostly studio portraits, with a background painted in afterwards. Francis Hayman's picture of Garrick as Richard III has him standing astride his fallen horse with rolling fields behind him full of battling soldiers. The artists clearly let their fancies fly as much as the actors (the great Garrick, for example, played Hamlet waring a wig with a cord attached, so as to have his hair stand on end at moments of high intensity).

If the Georgian age was a golden one for actors, it was a rotten one for plays. Old Restoration comedies such as Vanbrugh's *The Provoked Wife* were standard fare and one has to sympathise with Garrick, who rewrote the play to give himself the opportunity to wear a dress and declare, "I am Bonducca, Queen of the Welshmen, and with a pedigree as long as a leek." Johan Zoffany shows him in full drag, raising a cudgel at cowering onlookers.

Even Shakespeare was most often enjoyed through the barbarous adaptations of Colley Cibber. All four of the Richard IIIs on show — respectively Garrick's, Bannister's, Cooke's and Edmund Kean's — were painted for the Cibber version, and the comparisons offered by the four pictures bring a difficult question to light. The picture of Kean is of a familiar Richard, sinister, deadly and apparently partially crippled: the picture of George Frederick Cooke is of a fat, jaded poseur in Elizabethan costume. Does this mean Kean's Richard was better, or merely that Cooke's portrait painter was worse?

Rare examples — Macklin as Shylock, Davidge as Malvolio — suggest there may have been some plays worth watching, but this fascinating exhibition generates one bizarre paradox. If the acting was good, then shame on the painters. If the pictures are good then the acting really must have been terrible.

GILES COREN



Zoffany's 1768 portrait of Charles Macklin as Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*

WORLD MUSIC: Song from Senegal

African pastorale

Baaba Maal
Festival Hall

UNLIKE most musicians from Senegal — who tend to be either Wolof or Manding — Baaba Maal is Fulani. Born in Fouta Toro, on the country's parched northern borders with Mali and Mauritania, he has remained true to the essence of his pastoralist people. Baaba Maal's music, which melted all at a bursting Festival Hall last Thursday, reflects also the best of the Fulani: it is, by turns, sprightly and introspective, and never without a gently Islamic infusion.

Most of the music he performed was from *Firin' in Fouta*, his most recent and elegant album. Dressed in loose-cut pantaloons and long shirt, with an embroidered wrap thrown over his shoulders, Baaba Maal glided across the stage like a splendrous bird, swooping occasionally as his voice soared in the *daandé heli* style which the Fulani troubadors have patented.

Sidiki, the first song, was his loveliest of the evening. Dedicated to his bass player, Sidiki Kouyate (a *griot*, or minstrel-historian), it presented a difficult introduction to an audience which had come in search of more demotic entertainment.

What followed was an exhibition by Baaba Maal and his accomplished musicians of an array of musical styles. A sweet-tempered hymn to Gambia (in which his *griot*-mentor, Mansour Seck, gave company on the guitar) evoked the bluesy flavour of Ali Farka Touré; the plaintive *Baayo*, from an early album of the same name, was a vehicle for the kora (the Manding instrument which is a cross between a lute and a harp); and in a beguiling "question and answer" sequence with Massamba Diop on the tam-tam, Diop imitated in percussive "speech" fragments of the song.

Baaba Maal also turned on the salsa tap, in a supple number that was true to his country's own musical history. Cuban dance rhythms dominated Dakar's dance halls until the early 1970s, and the sinewy interventions by the troupe's saxophonist would not have been out of place at a concert by Joe Arroyo or Elio Revé. Nor were they at Baaba Maal's court.

TUNKU VARADARAJAN

Coward models lingerie

LET'S hope Sean Mathias never gets his hands on Shaw's *Pygmalion*. In his present mood I can see him reacting with knowing cries of "ho, ho" to Professor Higgins's suggestion that he, Colonel Pickering and Eliza should live together like bachelors. His production would end with all three, and maybe Mrs Pearce too, stripped to their Edwardian flannel and launching into something more heated than a lesson in phonetics. That is, after all, pretty well how we leave Leo, Otto and

Design for Living
Gielgud

Gilda in Mathias's revival of Coward's *Design for Living*.

All right, Coward was gay, lived and wrote at a time when the mention of homosexuality was taboo, and, like Wilde and Rattigan, may have expressed his true feelings in dramatic code. But I am sure he would have objected to finding the play's subtext and his own id as comprehensively outed as they are here. I suspect that, fastidious fellow that he was, he would have thought the production a bit crude when it was at the Donmar and in some ways cruder now it has moved, substantially recast, to the West End.

But do the views of even so eminent a corpse matter? I was in two minds about this last summer, and am now in three or four, for the production has strengthened as well as coarsened. The treatment of some supporting characters — a prissy housekeeper, a dim American — is now grotesquely over the top. The last scene is outrageously buffoonish, in its way as philistine as the philistinism it mocks. But the woman in the case seems more sexually central than at the Donmar, where you were in little doubt that it was the men's bond that counted most.

You recall the plot? Otto catches his best friend Leo and his beloved Gilda in post-coital disarray and storms off in a conventional huff, leaving them to set up house together. Leo reacts the same way when Otto makes a sexual return, only this time it is Gilda who goes, landing up in a dull marriage with a businessman called Ernest. The logical solution to the emotional algebra is a *ménage à trois*: a daring idea for 1933 but one whose details, especially its bisexual details, Coward leaves to the imagination.

Mathias does pretty well all our imagining for us. There is a lot of clambering and crawling on and under tables in underwear. Marcus D'Amico, who now plays Leo, celebrates his initial victory over Rupert Graves, the new Otto, by energetically humping Rachel Weisz's Gilda against the wall of the grey-brick bunker that weirdly embodies a Left Bank flat. The two men fall into an equally steamy clinch after their girlfriend's departure.

Is the answer, then, a production that somehow combines high erotic voltage with Cowardly decorum? This cast seems fully capable of achieving that balance. Graves is sharp, bright and mercurial; D'Amico blunter, solider but not less sensual; and Weisz as vivid, voluptuous and effective when it comes to buttering her thighs, as at the Donmar. But that would, I suspect, be too unadventurous a solution for Mathias in full spate.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

MARILYN KINGWILL



Rupert Graves, Marcus D'Amico and Rachel Weisz in *Design for Living*

Pom gets lost in the Bush

The Present
Bush, W12

SO, here is this Scottish lad Danny, not yet 18, writhing around in his sleeping-bag in an art gallery in Melbourne, gasping out broken sentences about having raped a woman (his mother? her best friend?) and left her for dead, *Jeremy Kingston writes*. Gazing down upon him from the front row of the audience is an Aussie guy who quietly encourages him to tell all. "How did she look, Danny boy?" Maybe Nick Ward has written a therapy play. Directed it, too.

But when Danny emerges from his bag, it has all been a hallucination brought on by smoking too much grass. He phones his mum and, yes, she is fine. Well, isn't that weird? The tricks the mind plays! But they are nothing compared to the tricks Ward makes his weird Aussies play on the poor, gormless Scottie.

Suave, creepily calm Michael, who owns the gallery, brainwashes the lad into going round the suburbs selling views of the outback (imported from Hong Kong) as though they were his own work. Dour, creepily psychotic Becky opens her legs, smacks him on the face, feeds him a cherry, slashes him with a knife. Danny is seriously alarmed but comes back for more.

Her lover turns out to be the girl who stayed with Danny's family back in London and slid into his bed when he was just 14. He is delighted to see her again but she has gone weird too, loitering without intent up some mental cul de sac. John Lennon has just died, and Michael and Becky torment Danny by playing Lennon records when he least expects it. "What's the matter, Danny boy?" He apologises for being upset. He is the most apologetic waif since Ophelia was troubled by the Elsinore nutter.

The play's intention never surfaces. "Don't come to Australia" is one possibility, but maybe we never thought of going in the first place. "Grow up, Pommie," is another. Michael and the women play their unkind games and Danny trots along like a mooncalf trying to keep up with the tigers.

Within the narrow range of sanity, the cast perform ably. Cold, manipulative power-play from the two Svengalis, Christopher Simon and Katrin Cartlidge; zombie impoverishment from Susan Vidler. Ewen Bremner is worried and eager as the mooncalf, though the script makes him improbably pliable after one pull of grass, one gulp of red wine.

What really makes the play such an unsatisfactory piece of theatre is the imbalance of will between the conflicting parties: masterful self-possession on one side, sweet-natured submission on the other. Since nothing happens to alter this it is hard to stay interested.

MARILYN KINGWILL



Bremner and Cartlidge: the mooncalf manipulated

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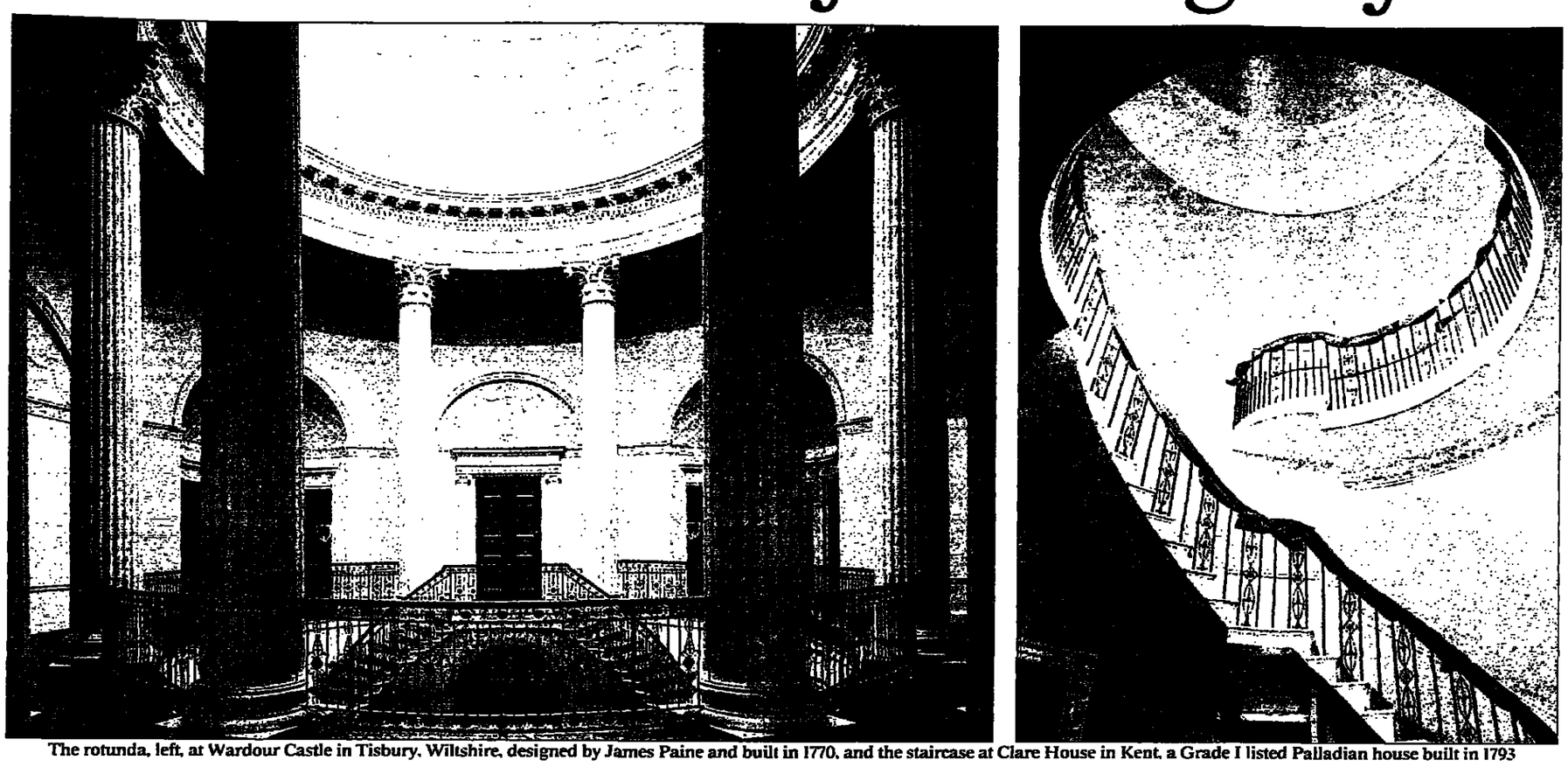
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Restoration comedy or tragedy?

Returning an old house to its full glory can be fun, but it can all go sadly wrong. Mary Wilson on how to get it right



The rotunda, left, at Wardour Castle in Tisbury, Wiltshire, designed by James Paine and built in 1770, and the staircase at Clare House in Kent, a Grade I listed Palladian house built in 1793

Teresa Gorman, MP, has felt the hard edge of the law in relation to planning regulations as Thurrock council takes her and her husband to court for restoring their Grade II listed home. Whether she has made a good job or not of the work is not the point in question. Their mistake was not to ask permission to do the restoration work in the first place.

People thinking about buying listed properties are often wary of doing so because of the cost and rigorous stipulations that have to be followed in their upkeep. The more special the house is, the more the regulations have to be observed.

More than 440,000 buildings in Britain are listed, of which 6,069 are listed Grade I. They are buildings are of exceptional interest. Grade II* relates to important buildings of special interest and Grade II to other buildings of special interest.

The law states that it is a criminal offence to carry out work involving the demolition of a listed building or its alteration or extension in any manner that would affect its character as a building of special architectural or historic interest, including works to its interior, unless the works are authorised by Listed Building Consent. The penalties are a fine of £2,000 or three months' jail or both.

Owners of Grade I and Grade II* listed property in doubt about what they can or cannot do can seek advice from the Environment Department or English Heritage. If the property is Grade II, they need only contact their local authority. Consent lasts for five years. It is also within a local authority's power to force an owner of a listed building to repair and preserve it.

On the plus side grants are available, although these are not that easy to obtain. There are some VAT concessions, but they often seem anomalous. If the work is an alteration, it is zero-rated; if it is a repair or maintenance, it is not. So adding a swimming pool attracts no VAT on the work, but repairing the roof does.

New owners could also contact the Historic Houses Association. This is a group of 1,300 historic houseowners in Britain concerned with the preservation of privately owned historic houses. William Proby, its chairman, who owns Elton Hall in Peterborough, considers that many historic houseowners think that owning such a house is, rather than being a privilege, more like enduring a prison term. The association is lobbying in Britain and through the European Union for a reduced rate of VAT for repairing and maintaining listed buildings.

"The great secret," Mr Proby says, "is to try to get the local planning inspector on your side. You do not want to get off on a confrontational start, although it might mean biting your lip." Once a decision has been made, there is no right of appeal. If the property is listed Grade II* or Grade I, you need both the local planning authority and the inspector from English Heritage on your side.

Mr Proby says: "I am very keen to encourage new owners. If people are contemplating buying a listed house, they should contact us right at the outset for advice. Once they are a member, we have a very experienced technical adviser and we run seminars on all sorts of matters pertaining to the restoration of listed houses."

> 'I first saw the building in November 1991. I fell instantly in love with it'

There are many stories of people finding conservation people less than helpful, but Jonathon and Zara Colchester, whose family have owned The New Place, in Ickham, near Canterbury, Kent, since the First World War, were lucky.

The 15th-century Grade II* listed manor house has been carefully restored. Mr Colchester says: "The basic frame was fine, but we had to put in new services and plug a huge hole under one of the principal supports. Luckily, our builders, W.W. Martin in Thanet, had supplies of old oak and old flagstones. The house was crawling with conservation people, but they were happy because we were going by the book. I built up a good relationship with them, but whether you end up with people who are sympathetic to what you want to do seems down to chance."

He hopes to let or sell the five-bedroom house with 1.8 acres through John D. Wood, which has it on the market for £350,000.

Ron Warren, of Berkeley Homes, Kent, which is restoring the unusual and beautiful Clare House in East Malling, Kent, a Grade I listed Palladian house built in 1793, says: "We are working with English Heritage on the restoration and fine detailing. We intend to restore the building in every detail. Once English Heritage knew that we were involved, along with Wiltshier Construction, which specialises in this sort of thing, we had few problems."

> 'I have a simple aim: to restore the fabric of the house to its original state'

Wardour Castle in Tisbury, Wiltshire, is being restored by Nigel Tuersley, an ecologist. The Grade I listed building was designed by James Paine and built in 1770. "I first saw the building in November 1991 and fell instantly in love with it," Mr Tuersley says. "I have never had any problem with English Heritage. We have seen eye to eye on everything."

When one sees the quality of the workmanship and materials Mr Tuersley has used it is not surprising that English Heritage is happy with what he is doing. The new floors are made of English oak, and sawn in a special way so they have the same grain as the original. He has restored all the cornice work and has even matched the fruitwood door knobs.

When Mr Tuersley bought Wardour Castle, he commissioned English Heritage to do extensive research on the building and he now has most of Paine's original plans and also the plans of the gardens, down to the purchase orders for the plants. "I have a simple, pure principle," he says, "to restore the fabric of the house to the true original state achieved by Paine."

He has turned the top floor into three huge flats, keeping the large door frames throughout and having 2½ in-thick doors made to fit them as they used to be. The flats are being let for £1,600 to £1,800 a month through John D. Wood's Hampshire lettings department.

● *Department of the Environment, Heritage Department, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB; English Heritage, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 2HE; Historic Houses Association, 2 Chester Street, London SW1X 7BB.*

After 3,000 years, this is the view

Tumbledown outbuildings dominate this farmstead in an attractive Wiltshire landscape. But what can the owner do?

JULIAN HERBERT



Tim Daw says: "We haven't the money to repair and maintain buildings we can't use"

Huddled below the green ramparts of the Pewsey Downs in Wiltshire, Cannings Cross Farm lies at the heart of a landscape filled with the lingering resonances of ancient settlements. The broad arable fields are scattered with ancient potsherds, and in the low winter sunlight the hillside is dark with the shadows of old tracks and Celtic fortifications.

There has been a farmstead at or near Cannings Cross for at least 3,000 years and it is a matter of sharp local debate that such a venerable place should be dominated by a tumbledown collection of barns and outbuildings. Tim Daw, the farmer, said: "The hurricane knocked them about a bit. The problem is that no modern use can be found for the barns. They were built for threshing or storing grain and are too small for tractors. We are a commercial enterprise not a barn-preservation society. We haven't the money to repair and maintain buildings that we can't use."

> 'I'm not allowed to convert the barns'

In 1989, Mr Daw began what proved a long and futile struggle to find a solution to his "blot on the landscape". He decided to seek permission to convert the two Victorian brick-and-slate stables and the early 19th-century threshing barn to residential dwellings. "These are the main buildings, arranged as a courtyard at the centre of the site," he said. "The scheme would allow us to have cleared away all the remaining barns."

With a farmhouse and four cottages, Cannings Cross is more a hamlet than a farm, but it does occupy an exposed and elevated position in an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB) and any development would need to be aware of the sensitive setting. Mindful of these considerations, Mr Daw said he "talked to the planners and tried to find out what they wanted, but they weren't exactly forthcoming. So we came up with a plan for seven cottage-style houses similar to those already here."

Kennet District Council, the planning authority, rejected this application and the two further plans that followed — a 1991 application for four houses and the present plan to convert courtyard buildings to three large houses.

David Pearce, Mr Daw's planning consultant, said he was bemused by Kennet's behaviour. "The first and second applications went to appeal and the inspector made no objection to the *principle of residential use of these* barns, only to the specific proposals," he said. "Now, the local planners have rejected our latest application on policy grounds: ie, that it would have an adverse effect on the landscape. If they knew the application couldn't get around the policy on development in the countryside, they should have advised us long ago."

Having read the inspectors' remarks after the rejection of the two appeals, Mr Pearce thought he knew what the planners would accept in the third application. "We discussed every aspect with planning officers. We reduced the proposed dwellings to three to avoid using a modern barn.

"Because the barns already had plenty of openings we did not need to make new apertures for windows, and, in revised plans submitted last November, we eliminated the rooflights to which planners had taken exception.

"This conversion retains the form of traditional agricultural buildings and by removing the ugly modern structures would restore the original courtyard shape."

The local parish council raised no objection to the application nor did the highway authority. But the response of the Kennet branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England was unequivocal. "This is an isolated and very beautiful position of great archaeological value," Colonel John Wilson, the chairman, said. "We are trying to maintain the local scene and these farm buildings are essential to the integrity of the whole as a working farm.

"This conversion would result in an incongruous and intrusive development of large houses at the exposed foot of the escarpment."

The application was rejected, much to Mr Daw's disgust. "The first I heard of it was in the local press," he said. "One moment we're talking about details: the next we're faced with another appeal.

"The planners will not let me convert the barns to houses and I cannot use them for the farm. What do they want me to do with them?"

John Lee, Kennet District Council's director of planning, says: "There is a huge market in second-hand materials and it is preferable that these barns should disappear rather than survive as houses."

DAVID LOVIBOND

Internet on line for house sales

Millions of potential buyers around the world could view your home

House sellers can reach probably 10 million people worldwide by having their property advertised on the Internet.

Nationwide Property Selections claims to be the first company in Britain to offer sellers the chance to plug into the Internet at viable rates.

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If they want to know more, they can either use the old-fashioned telephone or e-mail Nationwide's computer system. Then they can be put in touch with the seller.

Nationwide Property Selections, based in Ealing, west London, charges £88.13 to register a property for sale on its British computer matching network. A further £25 secures four weeks' exposure on the Internet, or clients can pay £75 to use the Internet alone for a month.

The service started on January 19 and in the first week 9,000 people accessed the file, prompting inquiries from buyers throughout Europe, Hong Kong and America. Among the 230 properties on offer were a four-bedroom detached modern family house at Wokingham, Berkshire, priced at £183,950; a £350,000 detached Edwardian house in Bournemouth split into six holiday flats; and a Georgian detached farmhouse and three acres on a river at Kinsale, Co Cork, at £IR260,000. Other properties abroad are also for sale through the company.

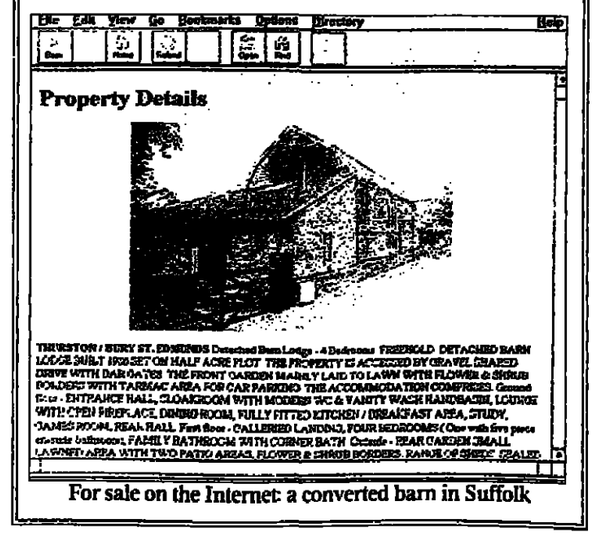
Nationwide Property Selections was formerly called National Selections, which computer-matched vendors with buyers for the flat registration fee. *The fee for sellers still covers* that service, but buyers register without charge.

Computer-literate vendors can use the Internet direct, but the input cost is very high, and subscriptions for access are between £5 and £10 a month.

Paul Brooks, Nationwide's managing director, said it was too soon to known whether any sales had been achieved through the Internet. "Our job is to put A and B together and hope that a swift sale follows," he said, "but we are not necessarily told if an introduction is successful."

CHRISTINE WEBB

● *The company has a freephone 0800 716 116 and fax 0181-566 2044. Its Internet address is http://www.Vossnet.co.UK.*



For sale on the Internet: a converted barn in Suffolk

Never mind, count the square footage



Luxury in Kensington: the tiled indoor swimming pool

NUMBER 30A Hyde Park Gate in central London is the ultimate in restrained beauty. Arranged primarily over two upper floors, covering 8,607 sq ft, the contemporary property is an open-plan haven for lovers of art. White wall after white wall awaits the stamp of the owner-to-be, *Morag Preston writes.* The property's proximity to Kensington Gardens, and the double garage as well as off-street parking, are discreet luxuries. The tiled indoor swimming pool and adjoining self-contained apartment are perhaps a little less subtle.

Commissioned in the late 1970s under the supervision of the architect Igael Yarvitz, only the versatile shell of the building has remained intact. Inside walls have been knocked down, bedrooms turned into studies and offices into exercise rooms. Square footage is now more significant than the number of rooms.

The private lift and spiral staircase are still at the core of the Lego-like property. Except for the cream carpets and maple floors, it is both functional and stylish.

The square windows are vast, allowing light to stream in, but the one-way glass offers privacy. Electronic blinds shut out what is not always a pleasant view of neighbouring flats, and though there is no garden, terracing at the rear overlooks attractive grounds.

The self-contained apartment, with two bedrooms, two bathrooms, kitchen, study and sitting room, would make staff accommodation for one.

Easy maintenance and tight security make the property a perfect "Monday to Friday" house. It is priced at £3,950,000, and available through the joint agents Aylesford and Savills.

Court of Appeal

Law Report February 22 1995

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

When students can receive income support

Chief Adjudication Officer and Another v Clarke
Same v Faul

Before Lord Justice Glidewell, Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Hoffmann

[Judgment February 14]

Students who, after completion of part of a full-time course, were permitted by their university to take a year or other substantial period out before resuming their studies had not abandoned the course for the purposes of regulation 61 of the Income Support (General) Regulations (SI 1987 No 1967).

They were not, however, during that period persons "attending a full-time course of study at an educational establishment" within regulation 61 and were, therefore, eligible for income support.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing by a majority (Lord Justice Hirst dissenting) an appeal by the Chief Adjudication Officer and the Secretary of State for Social Security from the order of the Social Security Commissioner made on September 3, 1993, holding that during the relevant period the students, Ms Rebecca Louise Clarke and Ms Judith Edel Faul, were not students within regulation 61. The Court of Appeal granted the Chief Adjudication Officer and the secretary of state leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

Mr Rabinder Singh for the Chief Adjudication Officer and the secretary of state; Mr Richard Drabble for the students.

LORD JUSTICE HOFFMANN said that the question was whether a student whom the university permitted temporarily to withdraw from a course for an academic year or other substantial period was eligible for income support.

Ms Clarke had commenced a three-year degree course in October 1989. At the end of her second year the university had approved her request to intercalate the academic year 1991-2. "Intercalate" was a suitably Latinate word meaning to insert an extra period into the calendar. "Twas the manner of the Jews (if the Year did not fall out right) to intercalate a Month, and so to have, as it were, two Februarys" (*Selden's Table Talk* 1654).

Ms Faul had begun her three-year degree course at the same time as Ms Clarke. During the Michaelmas term of 1991 she had had the misfortune to fall ill. The university had allowed her to intercalate the remaining two terms of 1991-2 with a view to resuming the course in October 1992.

It was a condition of entitlement to income support that, subject to certain exceptions, the claimant should be available for and actually seeking employment. Ms Clarke had satisfied that requirement. Ms Faul had not done so, but she fell within an exception.

On the other hand, both Ms Clarke's actual availability and Ms Faul's excuse were overridden by regulation 10(1)(h), which said that a claimant should not be treated as available for employment if he was "a student during the period of study". The question was whether during their intercalated periods Ms Clarke and Ms Faul had been students during the period of study.

Both "student" and "period of study" were defined in regulation 2. "Period of study" meant "the period beginning with the start of the course of study and ending with the last day of the course or such earlier date as the student abandons it or is dismissed from it..."

"Student" had the meaning prescribed in regulation 61: "... a person ... who is attending a full-time course of study at an educational establishment and for the purposes of this definition — (a) a person who has started on such a course shall be treated as attending it throughout any period of term or vacation within it, until the last day of the course or such earlier date as he abandons it or is dismissed from it."

The commissioner had held that during the relevant period Ms Clarke and Ms Faul were not students within that definition. They were not within the extended definition of "attending" in subparagraph (a) because in his view they had "abandoned" the course during their intercalating periods.

The Chief Adjudication Officer appealed on the ground that "abandon" meant to give up finally. He said that a course which could be resumed after a year had not been abandoned.

His Lordship readily accepted that "abandon" might legitimately be used in senses which were not final. But he was quite satisfied that it could not have that meaning in the definition of "student" in regulation 61.

The context placed the word in conjunction with two other events which were undoubtedly final, namely the end of the course and the student's dismissal from it. On that point, therefore, the Chief Adjudication Officer was, in his Lordship's judgment, correct.

Mr Drabble had taken a different point by way of respondent's notice. He had said that subparagraph (a) of the definition of "student" in regulation 61 did not say, as it might have done, that a student who had started on a course should be treated as attending it throughout the period of study as defined in regulation 2.

Instead, the student who had started on the course should be treated as attending "*throughout any period of term or vacation within it* until the last day of the course or such earlier date as he abandons it or is dismissed from it" (his Lordship's emphasis).

Mr Drabble said that if the definition meant what the Chief Adjudication Officer said, the italicised words might as well have been left out. Therefore, said Mr Drabble, they had necessarily been intended to impose an additional requirement.

The student was treated as attending the course during such times as (a) fell after he had started and before it ended or he abandoned or was dismissed from it, and (b) were periods of term or vacation within it. Counsel said that the intercalated periods satisfied (a) but not (b). One could not sensibly have "periods of term or vacation within the course" when the students were not attending the course at all.

The definition was by no means clear. Mr Drabble was necessarily right in saying that on the Chief Adjudication Officer's construction, the italicised words were surplusage.

Mr Rabinder Singh said that the words merely emphasised that the student was deemed to be attending even when he was on vacation.

In his Lordship's judgment both Mr Drabble's construction and that of Mr Rabinder Singh were possible. In order to choose which was correct it was necessary to examine the purpose for which the definition had been constructed.

Until 1986 students actually available for work had been able to claim unemployment benefit if they had signed on as available for work during the vacations.

The Education (Student Loans) Act 1990 enabled students to obtain loans in addition to awards and grants. One of the purposes of the Act was to enable students, by a combination of awards and top-up loans, to support themselves throughout the calendar year. That made it possible to exclude most students from social security benefits altogether.

One would therefore expect that a student's exclusion from social security benefits would be mirrored by his entitlement to an education award and a student loan. Otherwise there would be an anomalous class of people who for no obvious reason were left to destitution without state support of any kind.

In his Lordship's judgment Mr Drabble's construction would accord with the purpose of the 1990 amendments and Mr Rabinder Singh's would not.

If the words "throughout any period of term or vacation within it" were given the effect for which Mr Drabble contended, the claimant was a "student" for the purposes of the regulations while he was attending the course and he was deemed to attend the course not only during term time but also during any times which could be described as periods of vacation within the course.

Those were precisely the times for which, under the awards and loans system, he would be entitled to support. On the other hand he was not a "student" when his attendance at the course had been suspended by an intercalated period.

In conclusion, what counted as "vacation" for the purposes of the regulations was a matter of substance rather than the name which the university chose to give it.

Universities should not be encouraged by the court's decision to think that they could assist their students to raid the Exchequer by allowing them to "intercalate" the months between June and October in each year.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST agreed that "abandonment" in regulation 61 should be construed in its context as connoting permanent abandonment, for the reasons given by Lord Justice Hoffmann, but dissented as to the construction of the definition as a whole.

Lord Justice Glidewell concurred in the result reached by Lord Justice Hoffmann.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Department of Social Security; J. A. Rosser & Co, King's Lynn.

Justices heard one side on immunity claim

Regina v South Worcestershire Magistrates, Ex parte Lilley

Before Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Potts

[Judgment February 17]

Justices who had heard an application by the prosecution in a summary trial that certain unused material should not be shown the defence because it was covered by public interest immunity had a discretion in the interests of justice to order that the case be tried by a different bench.

Where justices had been shown by the prosecutor a document which the defence had not seen and had excluded the defendant and his legal adviser from the court for 20 minutes while hearing evidence from the police and submissions from the prosecutor, they should exercise that discretion to disqualify themselves from the case.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held allowing an application by Martin William Lilley for judicial review of the refusal of Droitwich Justices on April 25, 1994 to disqualify themselves from adjudicating as a court of summary trial a charge of dishonestly receiving a clock alarm radio.

Mr David Barnard for Mr Lilley; Mr John McGuinness for the justices.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE said that at the applicant's summary trial the Crown Prosecution Service had served a schedule of unused material one item of which was said to be too sensitive to be disclosed on the basis of public interest immunity.

A brown envelope was handed to the justices who retired to consider its contents. When they returned the justices said they wished to hear testimony from the investigating officer and representations from the Crown.

At that stage the applicant and his solicitor were excluded from the court for about 20 minutes during which the police officer gave evidence either sworn or unsworn before the justices and the prosecuting solicitor made submissions to the court.

At the end of that period the applicant and his solicitor were invited to rejoin the court and the justices said that the sensitive material was immaterial. The applicant's solicitor submitted that it was no longer desirable in the interests of justice for the same bench to adjudicate given that there had to be a submission that the bench might have been prejudiced as a result of what had taken place in the applicant's absence.

The Crown resisted the submission on the basis that the authorities on public interest immunity indicated the court of trial should determine both the public interest immunity issue and such triable issues as followed.

The applicant replied that there was apparently no authority dealing with how courts of summary jurisdiction should deal with the problem. The justices acceded to the applicant's solicitor's application that the proceedings should be adjourned generally pending resolution of the issue.

His Lordship set out the procedure for dealing in the crown court with applications for public interest immunity. Here the principles applying and the procedure to be followed were not in doubt. It was the responsibility of the court to determine whether sensitive unused material should be disclosed and there was provision in appropriate cases for the prosecution to apply ex parte.

A ruling that material should not be disclosed was not final. Issues might emerge during trial whereby the public interest in non-disclosure was eclipsed. The position had to be monitored. There was no doubt also that a judge in civil proceedings might properly decide questions of immunity and then proceed to try the case.

But it had to be borne in mind that judges, unlike lay magistrates, were lawyers who had had many years of training in the art, if art it were, of excluding from their consideration irrelevant material.

Magistrates sitting as examining justices had no role to play in consideration of sensitive material. The role of an examining magistrate was to ensure that a defendant did not stand trial in the crown court unless there was a prima facie case. The crown court would properly decide any public interest immunity issues.

Where admission of evidence was in issue examining justices had to rule and had no power to delegate to another bench. It was both proper and generally desirable for the same examining justices who ruled on submissions as to abuse of process to rule also on whether there was evidence to go to trial. It seemed to his Lordship that the position of justices conducting a summary trial was at first blush different because they had a fact-finding role which the crown court judge and the examining justices did not.

It was common ground that in considering how justices conducting a summary trial should discharge their role in relation to public interest immunity two lines of authority had to be considered: on the one hand the recent decisions as to crown court practice and on the other the long line of authorities stretching back 50 years and further in relation to the need for justice to be seen to be done in magistrates courts. The present case appeared to be the first in which both those lines of authorities had been concurrently addressed.

Mr McGuinness had submitted that the court was bound by *R v Bromley Justices, Ex parte Smith and Another* (*The Times* November 8, 1994) to hold not only that the rules as to disclosure were the same in the magistrates court as in the crown court but also that a like procedure should be followed in the magistrates court in that justices who had ruled that material was inadmissible should continue with the hearing.

In that case the court had been concerned primarily with whether the prosecution's duty of disclosure in relation to unused material in summary trials was the same as that in trials on indictment. There had been a large measure of agreement between leading counsel as to the appropriate practice in relation to disclosure.

Lord Justice Simon Brown had endorsed the conclusion that duties of disclosure were the same in both courts. What should be appropriate practice in the magistrates court was not in the forefront of the court's consideration. However, it was not clear whether any argument had been addressed to the court about whether the magistrates who took the decision on immunity should continue to try the case and none of the authorities in relation to the appearance of justice in the magistrates court appeared to have been cited.

There might be a difference in principle between a voire dire or ruling on admissibility and an application regarding disclosure. In the former the defendant and his legal advisers would be present throughout. But a public interest immunity application might involve the tribunal of fact hearing evidence in the absence of the defendant and his legal advisers.

The present case was distinguishable from any situation Lord Justice Simon Brown had in mind in *R v Bromley Justices*. Where justices having considered the undisclosed contents of a brown envelope and having excluded the defendant and his solicitor from the court for 20 minutes during which they heard evidence from the investigating officer and the Crown prosecutor, a reasonable and fair minded person sitting in court would have a reasonable suspicion that the bench might have been prejudiced.

His Lordship emphasised that the present proceedings related to summary trial. Different consideration might apply to justices acting as examining magistrates in committal proceedings.

The court having regard to the authorities was not bound to hold that the question was concluded by *R v Bromley Justices*. However, merely because justices had ruled after consideration of a public interest immunity claim that material presented to them was inadmissible that did not of itself confer on a defendant a right to a hearing before a new bench.

Whether or not such a hearing should be granted was a matter within the magistrates' discretion according to the circumstances of the particular case. But in the circumstances of the present case it seemed to his Lordship that a refusal by the justices who had ruled on the public interest immunity aspect to disqualify themselves would be so unreasonable that no reasonable court could do so.

Mr Justice Potts agreed.

Solicitors: Kieran & Co, Worcester; Crown Prosecution Service, Droitwich.

Distinguishing employees and independent contractors

Lane v Shire Roofing Co (Oxford) Ltd

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Auld

[Judgment February 16]

The present employment situation where more people were self-employed and good reasons existed for both workers and employers avoiding the "employee" label, gave rise to good policy reasons in the safety at work field to ensure that the law properly discriminated between employees and independent contractors.

The Court of Appeal so stated when allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Paul William Lane, from Judge Hutton, who, sitting as a deputy High Court judge on May 26, 1993, had held that the defendants, the Shire Roofing Co (Oxford) Ltd, were not liable for injuries sustained by the plaintiff while carrying out work for them on a roof at Sonning Common because he was at the time working as an independent contractor.

Concluding that the defendants were in breach of statutory duty but finding contributory negligence by the plaintiff, the Court of Appeal ordered the defendants to pay damages for personal injuries to the plaintiff of £102,500.

Mr Thomas Saunt for Mr Lane; Mr Julian Matthews for Shire Roofing.

LORD JUSTICE HENRY said that one of the questions that arose in the case were whether the defendants owed to the plaintiff the common law or statutory duty owed by an employer to his employees, or whether the plaintiff when doing the job was acting as an independent contractor responsible for his own safety.

When it came to the question of safety at work, there was a real public interest in recognising the employer/employee relationship when it existed, because of the responsibilities that that the common law and statutes such as the Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 placed on the employer. The judge here found that the plaintiff was not an employee and was responsible for his own safety.

The principle authorities that the Court had been referred to were *Ready Mixed Concrete (South East) Ltd v Minister of Pensions and National Insurance* ([1968] 2 QB 497), *Market Investigations Ltd v Minister of Social Security* ([1969] 2 QB 173) and *Ferguson v John Dawson and Partners (Contractors) Ltd* ([1976] 1 WLR 1213).

Two general remarks should be made. The overall employment background was very different today from when those cases were decided. First, for a variety of reasons there were more self-employed and fewer in employment. There was a greater flexibility in employment, with more temporary and shared employment. Second, there were perceived advantages for both workmen and employer in the relationship between them being that of independent contractor. From the workman's point of view, being self-employed brought him into a more benevolent and less prompt tax regime.

From the employer's point of view, the protection of employee's rights contained in the employment protection legislation of the 1970s brought certain perceived disincentives to the employer to take on full-time long-term employees.

There were reasons on both sides to avoid the employee label. But there were good policy reasons in the safety at work field to ensure that the law properly discriminated between employees and independent contractors. Many factors had to be taken into account and with different priority being given to those factors certain principles emerged.

First the element of control was important: who laid down what was to be done, the way in which it was to be done, the means by which it was to be done and the time when it was to be done? Who provided, hired and fired, the team by which it was done, and the materials, plant, machinery and tools used?

The control test might not be decisive, for instance in the case of skilled employees with discretion to decide how their work should be done. In such cases the question was broadened to whose business was it? Was the workman carrying on his own business, or was he carrying on his employer's?

The answer to that question might involve looking to see where the financial risk lay, and whether and how far the workman had an opportunity of profiting from sound management in the performance of his task.

Those questions had to be asked in the context of who was responsible for the overall safety of the men doing the work. Here the defendants had agreed that they were. That answer was not decisive, although it might be indicative, because ultimately the question was one of law and the defendants could be wrong as to where the legal responsibility lay.

In this case the plaintiff was a builder/roofer/carpenter who had since 1982 traded as a one-man firm. He had obtained self-employed fiscal status with a right to tax exemption certificates. He had found work through advertisements and when engaged by clients would be responsible for the estimating and buying of materials. But that work had dried up and he started working for others.

The defendants, a newly established roofing business, did not want to take on employees. They considered it prudent and advantageous to hire for individual jobs. They had advertised for men to work on a large roofing job in Marlow. The plaintiff was employed by them at the daily rate of £45.

That job was nearly over when the defendants' requested the plaintiff to re-roof the porch at Sonning Common. He had visited the site with a representive of the defendants and had discussed what was necessary in the way of plant, ladders and scaffolding, to do the job.

It was agreed that the defendants would pay the plaintiff an all-in fee for the job. The plaintiff had taken all his personal roofing and carpenty tools but had provided no materials. He took his own ladder. While carrying out the work he had fallen from the ladder and suffered the injuries which had caused serious brain damage.

The defendants rightly distinguished between a *Ferguson v Dawson* situation where an employer engaged men on "the lump" to do labouring work, where the men were clearly employees whatever their tax status, and when a specialist subcontractor was employed to perform some part of a general building contract. That individual clearly would be an independent contractor.

Mr Matthews submitted that the plaintiff fell somewhere in between. That was correct but this case was substantially nearer "the lump" than the specialist subcontractor, although the degree of control the defendants would use would depend on the need they felt to supervise and direct the plaintiff.

The question "whose business was it?" in relation to the Sonning Common job could only be answered by saying that it was the defendants' business and not the plaintiff's. They owed the duties of employers to the plaintiff.

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Auld agreed.

Solicitors: D. C. Kaye & Co, Great Missenden; Vizards.

Status of parent

In re S (a Minor) (Parental responsibility)

A parental responsibility order granted under section 4 of the Children Act 1989 gave status to a father for it carried duties and responsibilities as well as powers and rights.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Ward) so held on February 16 when allowing a father's appeal from the order of Judge Pearlman on July 15, 1994, refusing the father's application for a parental responsibility order.

LORD JUSTICE WARD said that applications under section 4 had become a growth industry born out of a misunderstanding based upon a failure in seeing that the essence of the granting of a parental responsibility order was the grant of status. For section 4 applications it was wrong to concentrate upon rights, powers and responsibilities but to concentrate on the status given to a father by fatherhood.

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Wales look to future with choice of John

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WALES have made four changes for their five nations' championship meeting with rampant Scotland at Murrayfield on March 4. Three were entirely predictable; the fourth, the bold selection of Spencer John, of Llanelli, at tight-head prop, was not.

John, 21 last October, is the youngest front-row forward to play for Wales since David Young, of Swansea, interrupted a summer in Australia to play in the 1987 World Cup. Indeed Ieuan Evans, the captain, who will make his fiftieth appearance for Wales at Murrayfield, yesterday suggested that John was out of a similar mould to Young, who is now playing rugby league.

The young Llanelli player, a mechanical engineering apprentice, takes the place occupied against England last Saturday by the suspended John Davies and is preferred to his club colleague, Huw Williams-Jones, and the uncapped Cardiff prop, Lyndon Mustoe. "I thought it was a big wind-up," a bemused John said. "I can't express how sorry I am for John [Davies] but I intend to take my chance, do my country proud and make the position my own."

John, the only newcomer, is joined in the side by Wayne Proctor and Matthew Back, replacing the injured Nigel Walker and Anthony Clement at wing and full back respectively. Back will start his first international after winning two caps as a replacement.

Mike Hall reclaims his place at centre from Mark Taylor and the Welsh Rugby Union are confident that Hall, who will miss Cardiff's league game with Pontypool on Saturday, will have recovered from rib damage.

The selection of John, and among the replacements the Cardiff Institute student, Justin Thomas, who can play wing or full back, allows the Welsh selectors to look to the future. They now have no chance of successfully defending their five nations' title but can blood players of potential. At 17st and 6ft 1in, John has already convinced them in under-21 internationals that he can make the step up.

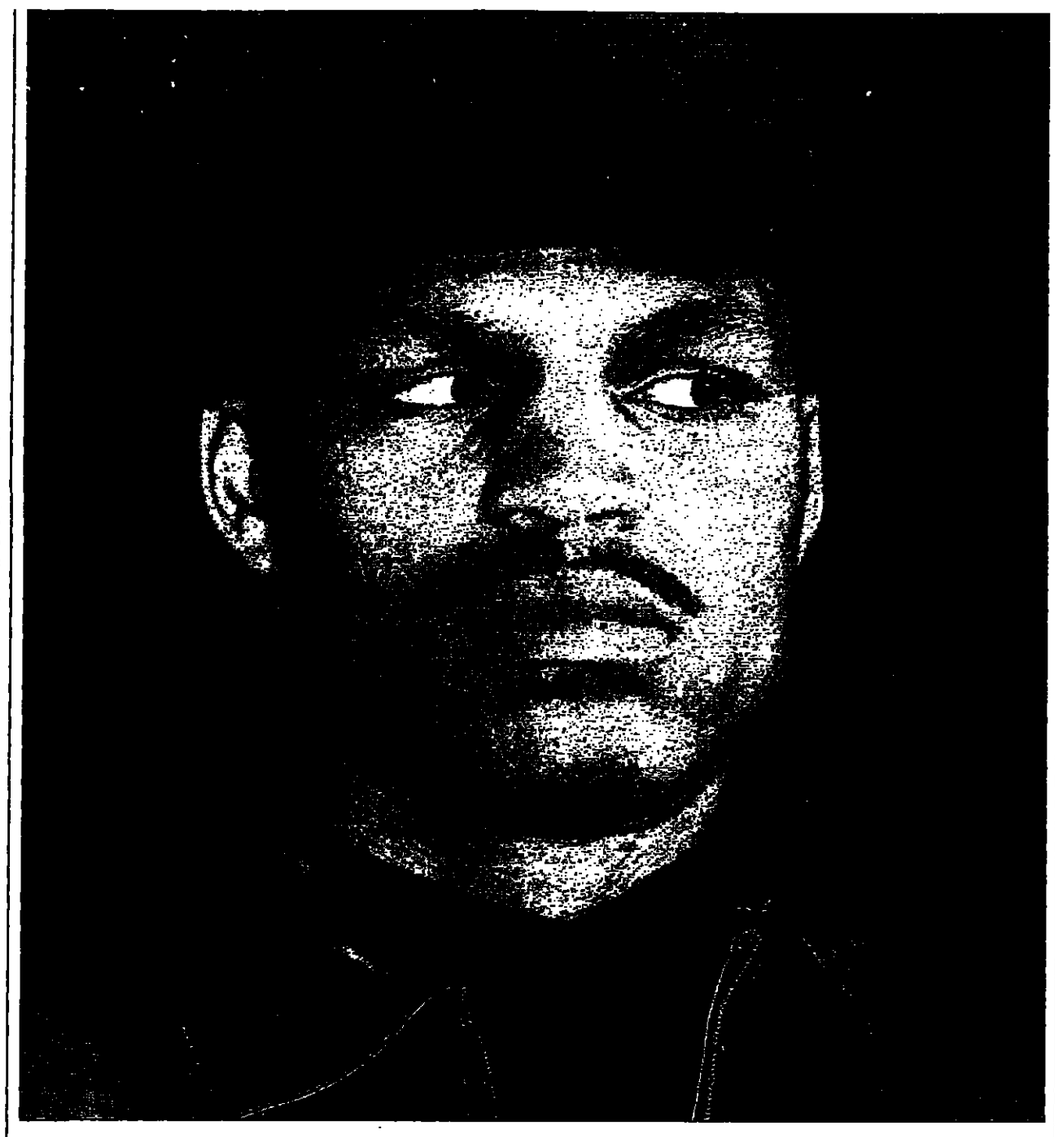
He played No 8 for Welsh Schools and has the reputation of a strong, ball-handling forward. He earned a place among Llanelli's replacements for last season's cup final and has played on rota with Williams-Jones and the injured Ricky Evans this season. His appearances include his club's meeting with the South Africans last October, ten days after his 21st birthday. "He comes with a fair pedigree, he's confident, mature and has a fair amount of footballing ability," Robert Norster, the Welsh team manager, said.

Apart from Thomas, 21, the replacements also include the experienced David Evans, now 29. The last of Evans's 11 caps was during the 1991 World Cup, against Australia, but after a series of injuries, his career has been rejuvenated by his move to Treorchy.

Scotland, unbeaten in three internationals since the turn of the year, will name their XV today. They need to replace the injured centre, Iain Jardine, and Damien Cronin at lock which gives them an opportunity to recall Scott Hastings, dropped after the game with South Africa, and retain Doddie Weir who replaced Cronin against France last Saturday. ☐ John Hall, the former England flanker now in his second season as Bath's captain, has confirmed that he will retire this year. Hall, 33 next month, would have won many more than 21 caps but for injury, and his decision will give extra motivation in his club's drive for yet another league and cup double.

WALES TEAM

M Back (Bridgend); I C Evans (Llanelli, captain), M R Hall (Cardiff), N G Davies (Llanelli), W T Proctor (Llanelli); N R Jenkins (Pontypridd), R N Jones (Swansea); M Griffiths (Cardiff), G R Jenkins (Swansea), S C John (Llanelli), H T Taylor (Cardiff), G O Llewellyn (Neath), D Jones (Cardiff), R G Collins (Pontypridd), E W Lewis (Cardiff). Replacements: W J L Thomas (Cardiff IHE), D W Evans (Treorchy), R H St J B Moon (Llanelli), P T Davies (Llanelli), H Williams-Jones (Llanelli), R C McBryde (Llanelli).



Gerald McClellan, above, is so confident of relieving Nigel Benn of his World Boxing Council super-middleweight boxing title on Saturday at the London Arena that he has not studied him on videotape (Srikumar Sen writes). He said at his first press conference in London yesterday that he stopped viewing his opponents on tape ever since losing to Dennis Milton six years ago after watching him on video and changing his style. The former world middleweight champion, from Detroit, who has lost only two of his 33 contests, has stopped 29 of his opponents. He did not expect Benn to last the distance, either. "My goal is always to win in the first," he said. "It's a great feeling for me to knock a man unconscious." McClellan aspires to take on Roy Jones, the International Boxing Federation super-middleweight champion.
Photograph: Magi Haroun

Woodhall eager to upgrade status

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

RICHIE WOODHALL, the world No 7 middleweight, can go to the top of the World Boxing Council rankings if he lifts the vacant European championship by beating Silvio Branco, of Italy, at Telford tonight.

Woodhall gets his chance because Gerald McClellan, the champion, moved up to super-middleweight to challenge Nigel Benn in a bout that is scheduled to take place on Saturday.

As a result of McClellan's departure, Julian Jackson and Agostini Cardamone, the No 1 and No 2, will be boxing for the world title and Branco, the No 3, becomes the No 1 challenger.

Branco will not be easy to beat. He is used to English boxers, having outpointed Ray Webb and stopped Ian Chantler in two rounds and drawn with the Liverpool-based Korean, Judas Clottey. Branco has lost once in 26 contests.

The bout could be excellent, with a puncher, Branco, against a boxer, Woodhall. Nineteen of Branco's 24 wins have come inside the distance, but the Italian has been floored as well, by Cardamone and Clottey. It is unlikely that Woodhall will deck him. Even though 11 of Woodhall's 18 bours have finished early, the Englishman prefers to box.

His boxing produced a Commonwealth gold medal and a bronze medal in the 1988 Olympic Games against Roy Jones, now the International Boxing Federation super-middleweight champion. Woodhall is a rare boxer who has the patience to use the jab, seizing the knockout chance only when it is absolutely safe.

With the support of his home crowd, Woodhall should come through on points, but he will have to stay away from Branco's big right by keeping the bout at long range until he is well ahead on points.

Misfortune hampers French as trial keel is lost at sea

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL
IN SAN DIEGO

FRENCH hopes of winning the America's Cup took another dive when the keel on their training yacht broke off late on Monday leaving the vessel to capsize 11 miles off San Diego. No one was hurt, though four crew were thrown in the water. But the yacht's 20-ton secret keel was lost in 900ft of water.

The incident is the latest in a catalogue of disasters to have struck Marc Pajot's team, which languishes equal fifth in the Louis Vuitton challenge trials despite having one of the largest budgets.

Last December, the same yacht fell from the crane hoisting it from the water and sustained more than $1 million (about £630,000) worth of damage. The lost keel is believed to have been the latest design from France and might have transformed Pajot's fortunes in the vital fourth round next month. His team has won only five of its 12 races. The capsized boat was towed back to its base at Mission Bay in darkness.

Pajot, who directed the salvage operation, confirmed that the four bolts holding the keel to the hull had sheared and admitted that the accident would have a severe impact on his team. "We are now down to a one-boat programme," he said.

The French did have something to cheer about. Earlier, their main entry, *France*³ ended a run of four losses by comprehensively beating the Spanish, who remain bottom of the table.

Another loser was John Bertrand's new boat *oneAustralia* which fell in a close race to the unbeaten *Team New Zealand*, skippered by Russell Coutts. Chris Dickson's rival New Zealand challenge, *Tag Heuer*, also won against *Sydney 95* and was to meet against Coutts and his crew last night in the hope of establishing a firmer hold on second place in the standings.

CHALLENGE TRIALS: Results: Team New Zealand (R Coutts) bt oneAustralia (J Bertrand) 0:26sec; France³ (M Pajot) bt Rioja de España (P Campos, Sp) 6:56; Tag Heuer Challenge (C Dickson, NZ) bt Sydney 95 (S Fischer, Aus) 4:07. Positions: 1, Team New Zealand 32pts; 2, Tag Heuer Challenge 29; 3, oneAustralia 25; 4, Nippon 94 (M Nambu, Japan) 14; 5 equal, Sydney 95 and France³ 11; 7, Rioja de España 4.
DEFENCE TRIALS: Racing postponed on Monday. Positions: 1, Young America (K Mahaney) 21pts; 2 Stars & Stripes (D Conner) 13; 3, America³ 7.

Wizards to complain as Dragons postpone vital match

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

AD HOC rearrangements of both domestic fixtures and international schedules could influence the outcome of the Super Squash League end-of-season play-offs and have prompted a complaint from the rivals of the team involved.

Ogmore Valley Dragons, lying third, postponed their Super League match this week in a late private agreement with their opponents, Rackets Club, from Essex, when several of their top players decided to compete in the rearranged Stroh's Open in Calcutta. The Welsh side has competed tenaciously this season with a small squad drawn from a pool of international professionals whose rankings depend on results from such second-level events.

With the play-offs approaching and the table certain to be led by Cannons Club from ICL Lion Herts, Gerwyn Davies, the Dragons' manager, is anxious to protect a league position above the Welsh Back Wizards, who decamped from Cardiff to Bristol this season. Third place in the table would mean a preferred semi-final draw against the Hertfordshire club in the play-offs.

The fact that the Wizards' team manager, Robert Edwards, is also tournament director for the rescheduled Stroh's Open, as well as executive director of the Super Squash League itself, adds spice to the situation. Edwards flew in the world champion, Jansher Khan, from Pakistan on Monday in the hope of overtaking the Dragons' one-point lead, but his squad was crushed at home by the undefeated league leaders, Cannons Club, and the world champion was comprehensively beaten by Peter Marshall, the British champion.

The rules of the Super Squash League allow for match postponments in certain circumstances, but only with the approval of the controlling board, which includes the executive director. Edwards said yesterday that he would remove himself from any disciplinary investigation arising from the rearrangement. But the Wizards' owner and team promoter, John Wells, has lodged an official complaint on the grounds that the rearranged fixture could adversely affect his side's chances of finishing third.

RESULTS RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Miami 103 Cleveland 96, Charlotte 115 Chicago 104, Detroit 99 Sacramento 93; Orlando 152 Milwaukee 104; LA Lakers 108 Seattle 105; Golden State 98 Philadelphia 85.

CRICKET

CASTLE CUP (final day of four): Johannesburg: Eastern Province 344 and 245-8 dec (P Amm 118, L Koen 74, R Lyle 4-61, R Snell 4-84); Transvaal 256 and 289-9 (M Rushmere 70, J Cook 54, T Shaw 5-91). Match drawn. Bloemfontein: Western Province 186 and 287; Orange Free State 306 and 168-5. Free State won by five wickets. East London: Natal 303 (M Bruyns 59; B Fourie 5-96); Border 202 (P Kirsten 60, M Stonier 57). Match drawn. Pretoria: Boland 270 (K Jackson 57, A Wylie 54) and 85 (Rudi Bryson 4-23); Northern Transvaal 165-7 dec (R Pienaar 66) and 194-9 (Andre Seymore 84; Claude Henderson 5-57). Boland win by one wicket.

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Group five: Malta 1 Luxembourg 0 (in Gozo).

Monday's late results

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Fourth round: Hearts 4 Rangers 2.
Revised quarter-final draw: Celtic v Kilmarnock; Raith v Airdrie; Hearts v Dundee United; Stenhousemuir v Hibernian.
☐ *Ties to be played weekend of March 11.*

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Second round: Farnborough 0 Rushden and Diamonds 1; Yeovil 1 Stevenage 1. Replays: Ilkeston 3 Welling 0; VS Rugby 1 Altrincham 2. Revised third-round draw: Marine v Boreham Wood, Runcorn v Hyde; Gateshead v Macclesfield; Rushden and Diamonds v Halesowen Town; Ilkeston v Kiddermaster; Yeovil or Stevenage v Woking; Morecambe v Altrincham; Enfield v Merthyr Tydfil.
☐ *Ties to be played March 4.*
DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Purfleet 2 Walton and Hersham 5.
CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Clitheroe 4 Burscough 1.
BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Chelmsford 0 Burton 4.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Crystal Palace 3 Charlton 0; Queens Park Rangers 1 Watford 2. Postponed: Bristol Rovers v Ipswich; Chelsea v Swindon; Tottenham v Southampton
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Aston Villa 2 Manchester Utd 0. Second division: Leicester 2 Burnley 2.
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE CUP: Quarter-final, second leg: Postponed: AFC Lymington v Fleet
HONG KONG: Dynasty Cup: Japan 1 South Korea 1; Hong Kong 0 China 0.
FIFA WORLD RANKINGS: 1, Brazil 86.54pts; 2, Spain 61.70; 3, Italy 61.57; 4, Sweden 61.12; 5, Germany 60.96; 6, Norway 59.99; 7, Argentina 59.45; 8, Holland 59.29; 9, Mexico 58.94, 10, Ireland 57.20; 11, Switzerland 57.18; 12, Romania 56.13; 13, Nigeria 55.08; 14, Bulgaria 54.09; 15, Denmark 53.49; 16, Colombia 52.84; 17, Russia 52.48; 18, France 52.41; 19, Portugal 52.04; 20, England 51.92.

FREESTYLE SKIING

KIRCHBERG, Austria: World Cup: Ballet: Men: 1, R Kristiansen (Nor) 28.00pts; 2, H Baumgartner (Switz) 25.10 3, Fabrice Becker (Fr) 23.70; 4, S Roxburg (US) 23.60. 5, J Moseley (US) 22.75; 6, T Edmundson (US) 22.60. World Cup standings: 1, Kristiansen 588pts; 2, Becker 380; 3, Baumgartner 576. Women: 1, Y Bassilova (Russ) 27.80; 2, C Fechoz (Fr) 25.95; 3, E Green (US) 25.65; 4, A Johansson (Swe) 24.45; 5, J Witte (Fr) 23.90, 6, R Gutierrez (Sp) 23.60. World Cup standings: 1, Breen 800, 2, O Kuschenko (Russ) 562; 3, Fechoz 540.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): New Jersey 2 Washington 0, Montreal 3 NY Islanders 2 (OT); NY Rangers 3 Tampa Bay 1; Detroit 4 Toronto 2; Chicago 3 San Jose 2; St Louis 4 Edmonton 0; Dallas 2 Calgary 1; Vancouver 8 Los Angeles 2.

MOTOR RALLYING

HEART OF ENGLAND NATIONAL RALLY (Oxfordshire): 1, S Price (Metro 6R4) 48min 54sec; 2, P Doughty (Sierra Cosworth) 49:56; 3, T Jones (Escort Cosworth) 51:10.
ROAD AND STAGE BAY RALLY (Cumbria): 1, D Atkinson (Ford Escort) 43.18; 2, R Hemmingway (Sapphire Cosworth) 43:42; 3, C O'Connor (Sapphire Cosworth) 44:54.

SQUASH

MANSFIELD: Inter-County senior championships: Finals, men: Yorkshire 3 Cheshire 2. Women: Surrey 4 Yorkshire 1
SUPER LEAGUE: Welsh Back Wizards 0 Cannons Club 3 (Jansher Khan lost to P Marshall 5-9, 5-9, 9-1, 2-9, J Nicolle lost to S Parke 10-8, 0-9, 6-9, 2-9; A Davies lost to T Handa 5-9, 4-9, 6-9). ICL Lion Herts 3 Walker Farrimond Manchester 0 (C Walker bt N Taylor 9-0, 9-5, 8-10, 4-8, 9-4; C Wapnick bt A Toes 9-0, 9-6, 9-1; J Wellings bt P Kelly 10-8, 0-9, 9-3, 9-4). Ellis Stockbrokers Lingfield 2 Jim Hall Sports Northern 1 (R Eyles bt D Ryan 10-9, 9-3, 9-3; A Kirkland lost to A Gough 5-9, 6-9, 9-2, 9-5, 2-9; M Harris bt G Davies 9-5, 9-1, 9-4). Postponed: Ogmore Valley Dragons v Rackets Clubs subject to disciplinary investigation. Standings: 1, Cannons Club 35pts; 2, ICL Lion Herts 29, 3, Ogmore Valley Dragons 21; 4, Welsh Back Wizards 20; 5, Ellis Stockbrokers Lingfield 17; 6, Walker Farrimond Manchester 12; 7, Rackets Club 10, 8, Jim Hall Sports Northern 9.

STUDENT SPORT

JACA, Spain: Winter World Student Games: Skating: Men: 1, M Weiss (US) 2 5 backward pts; 2, D Allen (US) 3 0; 3, Zhang Min (China) 3 5. Skiing: Men: Downhill: 1, S Aubonnet (Fr) 1min 42.95sec, 2, M Cup (Swe) 1.44.24; 3, E Wolf (Austria) 1.44.56 Nordic Skiing: Women: 15k relay: 1, Russia (I Kroupycheva, L Lemenichouk, O Kosnatcheva) 42min 59.8sec, 2, Japan 43:50 4; 3, Ukraine 43.58.1

TENNIS

STUTTGART: Men's indoor tournament: First round: A Berasategue (Sp) bt O Delaitre (Fr) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; R Krajicek (Holl) bt S Dosedel (Cz) 6-4, 2-6, 6-2; M Damm (Cz) bt M Sinner (Ger) 6-2, 6-2; M Stich (Ger) bt C Costa (Sp) 6-3, 6-4; W Ferreira (SA) bt H Dreekmann (Ger) 2-6, 6-4, 6-3; Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt P Korda (Cz) 6-2, 6-1.
PHILADELPHIA: Men's indoor tournament: First round: J Tarango (US) bt A Boetsch (Fr) 6-7, 7-6, 6-2; S Lareau (Can) bt S Bryan (US) 6-4, 6-2, T Enqvist (Swe) bt J Yzaga (Peru) 2-6, 7-6, 7-5; J Grabb (US) bt J Bjorkman (Swe) 6-1, 6-4; P Ratter (Aus) bt V Spadea (US) 3-6, 7-6, 6-2; M Chang (US) bt R Fromberg (Aus) 6-3, 7-6; M Woodforde (Aus) bt M Cacopardo (US) 6-3, 6-3.
VIENNA: Women's indoor tournament: First round: M Schnell (Aus) bt R Bobkova (Cz) 7-6, 3-6, 7-5; S Cecchini (It) bt L Richterova (Cz) 6-2, 6-3; S Appelmans (Bel) bt M Oremans (Holl) 6-2, 6-3; M Babel (Ger) bt K Novak (Pol) 6-3, 6-0.
NEWCASTLE: LTA Women's Challenger tournament (GB unless stated): First round: C Papadaki (Gr) bt S-A Siddall 6-3, 6-3; H Ketelaars (Holl) bt D Jones (Aus) 6-1, 6-1; L Chen (China) bt L Bacheva (Bul) 7-5, 6-4; L Varrozova (San Marino) bt K Teodorowicz (Pol) 6-2, 6-1; S Krwencheva (Bul) bt S Schmidle (Ger) 6-2, 1-6, 6-4; S Noorlander (Holl) bt K Sharpe (Austria) 6-3, 6-2; M Seibold (Ger) bt L Ahl 6-7, 6-4, 6-4; S Pfaehler (Austria) bt C Bakkum (Holl) 6-0, 6-3; S Waechtershauser (Ger) bt J Pullin 6-3, 6-2.
ATP RANKINGS (US unless stated): 1, P Sampras 4,778pts; 2, A Agassi 4,082; 3, B Becker (Ger) 3,033, 4, S Bruguera (Sp) 2,629. 5, G Ivanisevic (Cro) 2,595; 6, M Chang 2,537; 7, A Berasategui (Sp) 2,473; 8, Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 2,460.
WTA RANKINGS (US unless stated): 1, S Graf (Ger) 2, A Sanchez Vicario (Sp); 3, M Pierce (Fr); 4, C Martinez (Sp); 5, J Novotna (Cz); 6, L Davenport, 7, G Sabatini (Arg); 8, K Date (Japan)

VOLLEYBALL

MEN: National League: Reebok Liverpool City 3 Whitefield 1; Polonia Ealing 2 Warwick Rigs 3, Newcastle Staffs 3 Camden Aquila 1; Mizuno Malory Lewisham 3 Wessex 1. Cup: Semi-finals: Reebok Liverpool City 0 Mizuno Malory Lewisham 3; Whitefield 1 Wessex 3.
WOMEN: National Cup: KLEA Leeds 0 Britannia Music City 3; Sale 3 London Malory 3.

YACHTING

SAN DIEGO: America's Cup: Citizen Cup (defender's series). Young America (K Mahaney) bt America³ (L Egnot) by 2min 24sec. Standings: 1, Young America 21pts; 2, Stars & Stripes 13; 3, America³ 7. Louis Vuitton Cup (challenger's series): Team New Zealand (R Coutts) bt oneAustralia (J Bertrand) 28, France³ (M Pajot) bt Rioja de Espana (P Campos) 6:56; Tag Heuer Challenge (C Dickson) bt Sydney 95 (C Beshel) by 4:07. Standings: 1, Team New Zealand 32, 2, Tag Heuer Challenge 29; 3, oneAustralia 25; 4, Nippon Challenge 14, 5, France³ 11; 6, Sydney 95 8; 7, Rioja de Espana, 4.

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SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	30	125	good	varied	fair	sun	8	18/2
(Pleasant springlike skiing, shaded runs remain hard)								
Mayrhofen	10	80	good	heavy	closed	fine	7	18/2
(Forgiving piste skiing, colder weather forecast)								
Obergurgl	55	130	good	varied	fair	fine	3	18/2
(Beautiful, sunny piste skiing, soft lower down)								
FRANCE								
Les Arcs	140	440	fair	varied	slush	fair	-2	18/2
(Moguls forming on many runs; 78/79 lifts open)								
Courchevel	150	285	good	varied	fair	fair	4	18/2
(Lovely skiing above 1,600m, icy low down then heavy)								
Megève	80	250	good	varied	fair	cloud	2	18/2
(Untracked powder still to be found; 39/41 lifts open)								
La Plagne	180	350	good	varied	fair	cloud	6	18/2
(Icy areas on s facing slopes, plenty of great skiing)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	80	250	good	heavy	good	fine	2	18/2
(Pistes holding up well in high temps, all lifts open)								
SWITZERLAND								
Arosa	85	115	good	heavy	good	fine	4	18/2
(Some worn patches on exposed slopes, lovely skiing)								
C Montana	285	335	good	heavy	fair	cloud	6	18/2
(Lovely skiing in springlike temps; 40/43 lifts open)								
Klosters	55	175	good	crust	fair	fine	2	18/2
(Piste skiing excellent, off piste crusty and heavy)								
Verbier	40	150	good	varied	slush	cloud	5	18/2
(Best skiing above 2,400m, lower slopes heavy by midday)								
Villars	65	245	good	heavy	open	cloud	5	18/2
(Excellent skiing at all levels, more snow forecast)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper.

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

WHEN you are the declarer in a trump contract and you have Q x x of a side suit in dummy and x x in your own hand, do you give the combination much thought when the defence lead it?

This hand occurred in the Macallan Camrose match between England and Scotland last month.

Dealer East — **Game all. IMPs**

	♠QJ8 ♥Q93 ♦K87 ♣KQ108	
♠74 ♥J107 ♦Q8 ♣J97653		♠A2 ♥AK854 ♦J9532 ♣2
	♠K109653 ♥62 ♦A104 ♣A4	

W	N	E	S
Armstrong	Cuthbertson	Kirby	Macintosh
—	—	1♥	1♠
Pass	2♥ (1)	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All pass	

Contract: Four Spades by South. Opening lead: jack of hearts

(1) "Unassuming cue-bid", showing at least a good raise to Two Spades

When Armstrong led the jack of hearts Macintosh made the innocuous-looking play of the queen from dummy. Kirby won the ace (good card — it shows his partner he is not interested in a heart continuation) and switched to his singleton club. Kirby then won the first spade and put his partner in with the ten of hearts to get a club ruff and beat the contract by one.

While it was unfortunate that it cost, playing the queen of hearts at trick one was definitely wrong. One way of looking at it is that if you play low only East can win the second round; playing the queen allows the defence an option as to who will win the next round. Why give the defence an option that they may be able to use profitably?

☐ The final round of the Macallan Camrose Trophy (the home internationals) takes place this weekend. England play Northern Ireland in Belfast while Wales play Scotland in Newport. The current standings are England 112 Victory Points, Northern Ireland 96, Scotland 89 and Wales 61.

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

KIBE
a. A chilblain
b. To skive or malinger
c. The rook or hoodie crow

SCUMBLE
a. To fall backwards off a horse
b. A defender at lacrosse
c. To overpaint

BREASTSUMMER
a. A nudist beach
b. The main beam
c. A mythical bird

EUTHENICS
a. Improving the environment
b. Mercy killing
c. Health through dancing

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

£12,000 Prize

Luke McShane, who celebrated his 11th birthday during the Hastings chess tournament in January, earned the biggest prize of his life on Monday when he won a £12,000 sponsorship from the British computer company Psion. Luke's successes already include being the youngest British player ever to draw with a grandmaster and the youngest ever to beat an international master. Garry Kasparov himself predicted that one day Luke would be stronger than Nigel Short.

Luke gained the highest ever single sponsorship for a British chess prodigy by winning a miniature game played at Simpson's-in-the-Strand, London against the Psion manager Anthony Garvey. Luke finished with an elegant queen sacrifice to force checkmate.

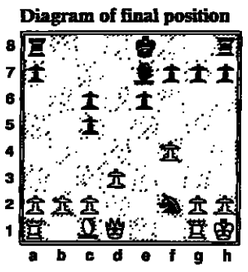
Although Luke's career has been a brilliant string of successes so far, he has been handicapped by lack of funds for travelling to tournaments and to obtain grandmaster level coaching. With this gap now plugged, Luke now hopes to go on to become Britain's first ever world chess champion.

White: Anthony Garvey
Black: Luke McShane
Simpson's-in-the-Strand, February 1995

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	f4	Nc6
3	Nf3	d5
4	Bb5	dxe4
5	Ne5	Bd7
6	Bxc6	Bxc6
7	Nxc6	bxc6
8	Nc3	Nf6
9	0-0	e6
10	Re1	Be7
11	Nxe4	Qd4+
12	Kh1	Nxe4
13	d3	Nf2+
14	Kg1	Nh3+
15	Kh1	Qg1+
16	Rxg1	Nf2 checkmate

Diagram of final position



Draughts Record

An American draughts master has set a new world record for playing different opponents at the same time. Charles Walker of Mississippi played against 306 opponents simultaneously. In just four hours he won 300 games, lost 1 and drew 5.

Correction

The answer to yesterday's Winning Move puzzle repeated that given on Monday. It should have read:

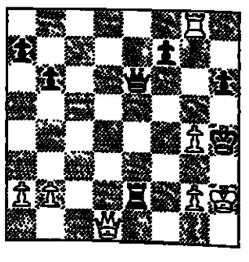
1 Rd7! wins, as if 1 ... Bxd7 2 Qxg7 is mate.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Stahlberg - Becker, Buenos Aires, 1944. White has driven the black king up the board, allowing him to finish the game with an attractive combination. White to play. Can you spot the finish?

Solution, page 46



Ripples of fishing's popularity spread far and wide

Brian Clarke studies a survey portraying hordes hooked on a sport that is paying the price for the licence fees allowed to slip from the net

There are 3.3 million anglers aged 12 and over in Britain, 2.9 million of them in England and Wales alone. More than one in five ABC1 households has a fisherman in it. English and Welsh freshwater anglers spend an average of more than £1,000 apiece, or £3.3 billion a year in total, on their sport. Twelve per cent of all anglers are women. An awful lot of anglers break the law.

These astonishing figures, which are released today by the National Rivers Authority (NRA), come from the most detailed and credible survey of angling ever published. They show the activity to be almost as much an industry as it is a sport. They contain information of value not only to the NRA but to the angling community as a whole and all those who service it.

There are insights among them for each of the sport's representative bodies, whose subscribing memberships look pathetic in the light of what is now unarguably known: for fishery owners and clubs: for a range of service industries and suppliers: for advertisers: for those deciding the shape and powers of the new Environment Agency into which the NRA will eventually be rolled; and for the Government, which funds angling less than any other water sport, though its participants outnumber those in all other water sports combined.

Previous surveys on angling were held in 1970 and 1980 by the same company. However, there was much questioning of the figures which those surveys contained and they cannot safely be used to indicate credible trends because the objectives, criteria and polling techniques used this time have all significantly changed. What is more, detailed figures are supplied only for England and Wales because the NRA's remit does not extend to Scotland.

With those caveats made, this new poll by NOP ends once and for all the wilder speculation in the angling community on its own real strength — and the lay public's perception that angling is a mildly dotty pursuit pursued by the few.

In the two years before the fieldwork last winter and spring, 2,296,000 individuals in England and Wales fished for coarse fish. Over the same period, 843,000 game anglers — that is, anglers who fish for salmon and trout — visited the water. So did 1,104,000 sea anglers. Around 37 per cent of all anglers were active in more than one branch of the sport. An apparent small decline in the total of all anglers since the 1980 survey may be accounted for by changes in definitions and by an apparent and unexplained decline in interest in sea angling.

While 20 per cent of coarse anglers fished less than half a dozen times a year over the two-year period, 16 per cent fished 200 times or more. The average number of outings in the two years was 87, better than one a week in each nine-month season. A half of all game anglers fished less than half a dozen times a year, a figure significantly influenced by the low participation in salmon and sea trout angling, itself a figure inevitably influenced by the cost, remoteness and sadly declining quality of most salmon and sea trout waters.

If coarse anglers outnumber and out-fish game anglers, the game anglers spend much more per head — £44.11 an outing against £21.21. Salmon anglers are most likely to subscribe to a fishing club. The survey does not show the average expenditure on salmon fishing alone, or the average cost of each salmon caught, presumably because there were not enough noughts in the computer.

One of the main purposes of the survey was to enable the NRA's fisheries group to understand the size of its potential market-place and the amount of revenue it can expect to raise through the rod licences which it issues and which every freshwater angler by law should buy. The news is not good. Anything up to 60 per cent of freshwater anglers fish without a licence, 11 per cent admitting the fact, two per cent more suffering a debilitating amnesia when asked.

In its commentary accompanying the survey, many will feel that the NRA is underplaying the loss of revenue which licence evasion at this level represents. Last year, the NRA sold fewer than one million licences. Around two million anglers are clearly investing significantly in the sport.

Many of these will be individuals who could be expected to buy cheap, one-day and eight-day licences. But many will not. If just one in three of the unlicensed anglers were to buy a full £15 permit, the NRA fisheries group would benefit by a further £5 million, or increase by 40 per cent the funds it is now raising from fishermen.

It is self-evident that every licence not sold means less cash available for fisheries improvement and a higher cost to those anglers already paying their way. While everyone understands the difficulties, the NRA has to become very much better at policing licence evasion.

The visible wearing of a permit, as is widely practised in the United States because of the peer pressure exerted, may be one way forward. A high proportion of those surveyed think it is, though some cultural resistance could be expected.

The National Angling Survey, conducted for the NRA by NOP Social and Political, is available from HMSO, £4.

Lara opts to return for three years at Edgbaston

By Ivo Tennant

WHATEVER everybody else has to say about county cricket and its supposedly declining standards, the finest batsman in the world has not yet had his fill. Brian Lara, who last summer exhausted all stocks of superlatives, will rejoin Warwickshire on a three-year contract commencing in 1996.

Lara cannot play for the county champions this year because he will be touring England with West Indies. His signing of a new contract means that Allan Donald, whom few counties would spurn as an overseas player, will not be able to play for Warwickshire after this summer. It is possible that he will continue his involvement with them as a bowling coach.

Dennis Amiss, the Warwickshire chief executive, said that they had considered alternating Lara and Donald, the South Africa fast bowler, as their one permitted overseas player. "But, when Brian said he wanted a three-year contract, we decided that was the best option for the club. This is a tremendous boost because he was such a major influence in us winning three trophies and in the dressing-room."

In his first season in county cricket, Lara made the world record score of 501 in a championship match, against Durham last June, and completed a thousand runs for the season in just seven innings. Whatever the salary Warwickshire intend paying him, it should be recouped in membership subscriptions and advance bookings. Lara, as he showed last season, puts bottoms on seats. Lots of them.

Warwickshire also took into account that South Africa and Donald will be involved in a heavy schedule of Test cricket over the coming years. "Allan would have had to leave us two months before the end of the 1997 season," Amiss said. "But it was not an easy decision in the sense that Allan has been a great servant of the club." Donald will be particularly valued this season because Munton, the vice-captain and England bowler, will miss the start because of a back operation.

After six months of negotiations, Lara flew to Birmingham from New Zealand, where West Indies are touring, to complete the deal. Not surprisingly, he has taken time "to step back and look at the hectic nature of the English season", as Amiss put it, before committing himself.

When Lara returns next year, he will have to make do without the influential coaching of Bob Woolmer, who swiftly concluded that here was a batsman to rank above even Barry Richards. He allowed him a fair amount of leeway. Lara was not always expected to lead the regimented life of an old pro and Woolmer, now looking after South Africa, harboured no doubts about that. A less flexible coach might have been a more pedantic timekeeper, but nobody could have quibbled with the size of Lara's contribution.

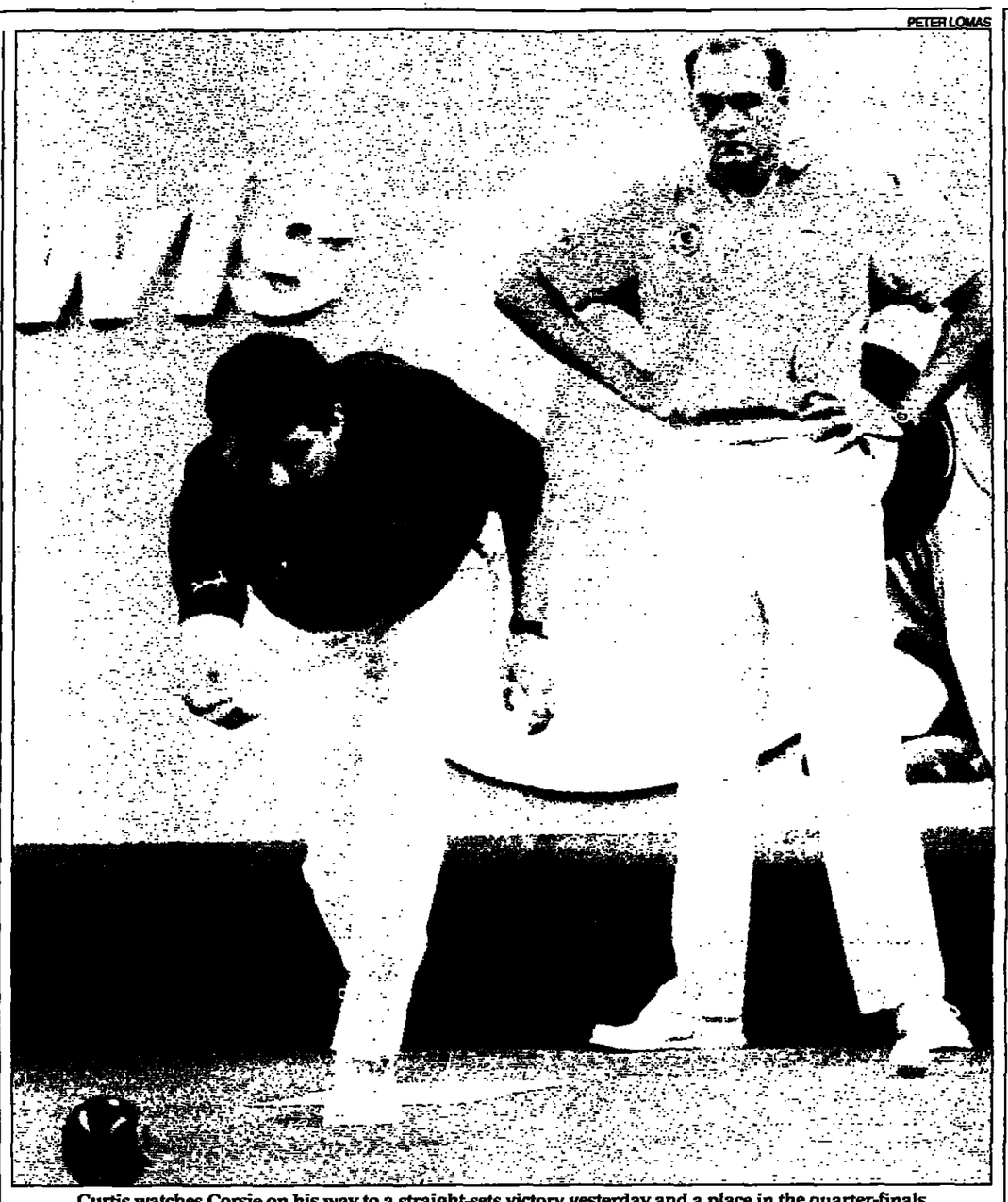
Worcestershire, Warwickshire's great Midlands cricket rivals, will not know whether their overseas player, Tom Moody, will be wanted by Australia A, who tour England in July and August, until two weeks before the start of the season. Duncan Fearnley, the club's chairman, has been told that the squad will be announced before Moody is due to return to England.

But, by then, any potential replacement is likely to have finalised his plans for the summer. "I have pointed out to officials in Australia that, if Tom played just one game for us and then was called up by his country, we would be stuffed. It would mean we could not have another overseas player," Fearnley said.

Worcestershire announced yesterday that Tim Curtis, their captain, made £129,501 from his benefit last year.

Mark Ramprakash has been passed fit to lead England A against Bangladesh in the second one-day international in Dhaka today. The Middlesex batsman has recovered from flu and makes his first appearance as captain of a representative team in place of Alan Wells, who is rested for the first time during the two-month tour of India and Bangladesh. Phil Neale, the England A manager, will delay naming the team until he has inspected the pitch.

PETER LOMAS



Curtis watches Corsie on his way to a straight-sets victory yesterday and a place in the quarter-finals

Corsie prospers from fresh impetus

By Gordon Allan

RICHARD CORSIE, champion three times since 1989 and runner-up to Andy Thomson last year, reached the quarter-finals of the Churchill Insurance world indoor singles bowls championship when he beat Cameron Curtis, of Australia, 7-5, 7-4, 7-4 at the Guild Hall, Preston, yesterday.

However, Corsie's victory was not as straightforward as the score implies. "Cameron could have won the first set, and even the second," Corsie admitted, but the fact was that the Scottish player's touch was surer, and that, allied to his much greater experience of the portable rink, was enough.

Curtis, 6-0 down in the first set, pulled back to 6-5 before losing it, and in the third, facing a match lie, he trailed the jack to the back of the rink, but left Corsie plenty of room to draw the winner, which he duly did.

Corsie, having formerly led for Alex Marshall in the pairs, is now playing skip, and finds the change beneficial. "Before, I was drawing for the jack all the time in singles and pairs," he said, "but changing roles from one game to the next is helping to keep me fresh."

Tony Allcock and David Bryant, winners of the pairs title six times, took their place in the semi-finals with a 7-5, 7-6, 7-6 victory over Mark McMahon, of Hong Kong, and Graham Robertson, of Scotland.

Allcock played a number of fine shots, without which the match would have lasted longer. In the second set, for example, he trailed the jack for a maximum count of four, and later, facing a set lie, drew the set-winning shot.

The World Bowls Players' Association (WBPA), whose membership includes all 16 seeded players at the championships in Preston, announced yesterday that Corsie is its new chairman in succession to David Bryant, who has retired. John Price will be vice-chairman, Gary Smith replaces David McGill as secretary, and Wynne Richards comes in as treasurer.

Corsie said: "The association hopes to be proactive in the development of the game at every level. We welcome the promises of a world series and would like to offer our members services on and off the green. The prospect of increased commitments makes it more important than ever that the players' voice is heard."

WBPA members are anxious to help the existing governing bodies and to support the work of sponsors. They say they are prepared to undertake public relations work of various kinds, visiting local clubs during leading events and coaching or running clinics if requested.

RESULTS: Singles: Second round: H Duff (Scot) bt W Richards (Eng) 3-7 7-6 4-7 7-3 7-5, R Corsie (Scot) bt Cameron Curtis (Aus) 7-5, 7-4, 7-4. Pairs: Quarter-finals: Corsie and A Marshall (Scot) bt S Rees and J Price (Wales) 7-5, 7-4, 4-7, 3-7, 7-4, A Allcock and D Bryant (Eng) bt M McMahon (HK) and G Robertson (Scot) 7-5, 7-6, 7-6

SPORT IN BRIEF

RFL charges Myers with misconduct

DAVID MYERS, the Bradford Northern and Great Britain under-21 wing, who was one of two Bradford players to refuse to take a drug test after their victory over Hull on Sunday, has also been ordered to appear before the Rugby Football League's disciplinary committee tomorrow to answer charges that he deliberately collided with a referee. The charge follows an incident during Bradford's Silk Cut Challenge Cup tie against Leeds on February 12. "Myers also appeared to deliberately kick a Leeds player," an RFL spokesman said. "The onus is now on Myers to prove that he did not commit either act deliberately."

John Devereux, of Widnes, has been recalled by Wales for the decisive John Smith's European championship match against France in Carcassonne on March 5.

WALES SQUAD: K Skerrett (Wigan), N Cowie (Wigan), M Hall (Wigan), P Atcheson (Wigan), A Bateman (Warrington), J Davies (Warrington), I Harris (Warrington), A Sullivan (St Helens), J Devereux (Widnes), A Hadley (Widnes), P Ford (Salford), D Young (Saltcrd), R Webster (Salford), R Phillips (Workington), K Ellis (Workington), P Monarty (Halifax), M Perrett (Halifax), R Eyres (Leeds), M Jones (Hull).

Berlin rules out bid

OLYMPIC GAMES: The mayor of Berlin yesterday ruled out a bid by the city to host the Olympic Games in 2004 following its failure to win the nomination for the 2000 Olympics. "A fresh bid is not on the agenda," Eberhard Diepgen said in a published regional government report into the failed campaign for the 2000 Games, which were awarded to Sydney.

Walther Troeger, Germany's National Olympic Committee president, said a German bid was unlikely for more than ten years. For that to succeed, he said, Germany must first secure the necessary finances and get the German people behind the bid.

The report said Berlin's bid failed because the government and people were lukewarm; a spate of racist attacks damaged the country's image; and vocal opposition was well-organised. The bid's organising committee, Olympia GmbH, is accused of corruption and wastage in its DM80 million campaign.

Chang opens defence

TENNIS: Michael Chang, the fifth seed, opened the defence of his Comcast US indoor title by beating Richard Fromberg, of Australia, 6-3, 7-6 in Philadelphia. His opponent, ranked No 42 in the world, had two set points in the second set, but Chang increased the pressure. "I started to return better and get a few more points on his serve," Chang said. "I was controlling the points a bit better and I was more patient. I forced myself to concentrate better." Patrick Rafter, the fifth seed from Australia, recovered to beat Vince Spadea, the world No 59 from Spain, 3-6, 7-6, 6-2. "I was a bit rusty in the beginning," Rafter said.

Davies's plans queried

RUGBY LEAGUE: Peter Higham, the Warrington chairman, intends to speak with Jonathan Davies after reports that the player intends to retire from competition after the World Cup this year to pursue a career in broadcasting. Davies was not prepared to comment yesterday. Higham said: "Jonathan has always discussed developments in his career with us first and I have no reason to think that it will be any different this time." After scoring the winning try in Great Britain's 8-4 triumph over Australia at Wembley last autumn, Davies injured a shoulder. He has struggled for fitness since making his comeback on Boxing Day.

Selectors keep faith

RUGBY UNION: The Welsh Schools senior group selectors have not panicked in the wake of the recent 42-6 defeat by New Zealand, and have kept changes to a minimum for the game against France at Viry Chatillon on Saturday. Gareth Thomas, the hooker, loses his place to Chris Wells, who is fit again, while Gareth Newman comes in at No 8, which allows Richard Field, the captain, to move over to flanker, where he will play instead of Dewi Coates. Coates, who has left hospital, is expected to make a full recovery after breaking a vertebra in his neck.

Monarchs get their man

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Eric Stephens, a cornerback, was the first choice of the London Monarchs on the opening day of the World League of American Football draft in Atlanta on Monday. Tim Barnett, a wide receiver, was first selection of the Scottish Claymores. Seventeen National Football League teams have allocated 37 players to the World League to give them added exposure and match practice. Jerry Vainisi, World League vice-president, said: "We hope this year's group enjoys the World League experience and that their NFL teams benefit as well."

Torpids prospects bleak

ROWING: The first day of the Oxford University Torpids on the Isis today has been cancelled because of the swollen state of the river. With unfavourable weather forecasts there seems little chance of the competition starting, although organisers have planned a further meeting for tomorrow morning. In the unlikely event of conditions improving sufficiently for racing to start later in the week, the competition will be restricted to the top three men's divisions and top two women's divisions.

Randriantefy surprise

TENNIS: Daily Randriantefy, 18, who reached the third round of the Australian Open before going out to the eventual winner, Mary Pierce, of France, was unexpectedly beaten in the first round of the Women's Challenger tournament in Newcastle yesterday. Randriantefy, of Madagascar — regarded by many as a prodigy — is among the entries for the Texaco Challenge in Southampton next week. Shirli-Ann Siddall, the British No 2, is the only home player to receive direct entry into the main draw.

If uncertainty be the food of sport, play on

MIDWEEK VIEW



SIMON BARNES

What happens next? This is the central, in some ways the only, question of sport. I remember the racehorse trainer, John Dunlop, saying to me as we stood, one February morning, surrounded by 60 or 70 unraced two-year-olds, how he loved, above all, this time of the year.

"Any one of them could turn out to be the greatest racehorse that ever set foot on a track," he said. "Any single one. They almost certainly *won't* be. But no one can say that they *can't*."

Jenny Pitman, National Hunt trainer, called her book *A Glorious Uncertainty*. Nor is it just racing, but all sport. The most certain of champions falls victim to folly, self-doubt, injury; the most obvious no-hoper is filled with a mad self-certainty.

Even the Boat Race, that most predictable and processional sporting event of the calendar, can throw up freak results, as in the famous mutiny year. Unpredictability is the stuff of sport.

That is why, in the days when recorded highlights dominated football, people ran ear-cupping and screaming from the room when the results came up. Watching sport when you know the result is like drinking alcohol-free lager.

When the whistle blows, the umpire says "play", the gun sounds, the hooter goes off or the bell rings, we toboggan pell-mell into the valley of the unknown. Therein lies sports addictiveness.

The past sporting weekend was a catalogue of unpredictability. Who could possibly have predicted, for example, that the long and bitterly awaited FA Cup-tie between Manchester United and Leeds United would have been settled after four minutes of play? Leeds conceded two goals and the match as the stragglers were still taking their seats.

Newcastle United won their own tie on another unpredictable oddity. The Manchester City goalkeeper, Andy Dibble, made a clownish error on a routine clearance and the Magpies were away. The FA Cup has been a largely predictable competition thus far this year: such moments restore your faith in sporting unpredictability.

Then there was the curious incident of Linford Christie's indoor world record at 200 metres. Nobody suspected that this was on the cards, or even possible. Christie came in as a last-minute replacement and then improved his personal best by the canyon-wide margin of 0.3 seconds.

You want more? Alberto Tomba, the Italian skier, has won ten successive World Cup slaloms this season. But, at the weekend, he missed a gate and was gone.

Perhaps you missed the Aleksandr Popov story? The Olympic swimming champion, favourite for his event at the World Cup event in Germany, crazily lost his balance at the start. He wobbled, false-started, and was disqualified, handing the race to Mark Foster, of Britain.

More? Steve Davis, the implacable elder brother of world snooker, was beaten in a Davis-style attritional final by a teenager called John Higgins. In Scotland, Aberdeen beat Rangers, surprise enough a week ago. But, at the weekend, they were themselves beaten by Stenhousemuir in the season's biggest upset. Meanwhile, the Scottish rugby team won in France for the first time since 1969.

The weekend was a gourmand's feast of unpredictability. The uncertain stuff of sport was piled high on our plates, course after course. Every time we thought that the meal was done, the waiter appeared again, staggering under his load, to lift the cover with a flourish from another steaming plate of sporting stuff.

At last the final savoury arrived. The name of this angel on horseback was Salim Malik, of Pakistan, who became the first cricket captain in history to win a three-Test series away from home after losing the first game. Amazing. But what? Do I hear some choking at the table? Is the dish too spicy? Burnt? What is wrong?

Pakistan cricket is reeling under the allegations of match-fixing, bribery and betting. Salim is among the shoal of players accused. The latest accusation concerns a one-dayer between England and Pakistan in 1992. This was a close and bitterly fought summer, the Test series ultimately won by Pakistan. But, at Trent Bridge, England scored an absurd 363, then bowled out Pakistan for an extraordinary 165. A batting and bowling collapse in the same match.

At the time, the match was relished as more of the Stuff of Sport. Now we must wonder about a retrospective stink. A sad business for cricket, for all sport. In fact, as we look back at the upsets and follies of the past weekend through the rising smoke of cricket's sleaze allegations, a slight tremor of doubt is apparent.

The glorious uncertainty of last weekend's sport is a fragile thing, a bubble of faith. Sport depends for its very existence on the fact that we believe that nobody in the world actually knows what happens next.

The global obsession with sport, and the global industry of sport, depend on the global faith in its enduring unpredictability: its glorious uncertainty. If the faith is destroyed, then the weekend's feast is reduced at a stroke to a case of alcohol-free lager.

هكذا من الاصل

Enforced break gives Dunwoody fresh perspective on his career

Head boy returns to hard school

BY ANDREW LONGMORE

AS ANY schoolboy will tell you, holidays can seriously scramble the emotions. On the outside, everything was back in order at Warwick racecourse yesterday. The sun shone through a bitter wind, the going was on the soft side of soggy, punters cheered and groaned, bookmakers counted their money and the head boy, burnished by the sun of Middle East and the high Alps, returned to the winner's enclosure after a 30-day break in the middle of term time.

It was as if Richard Dunwoody had never been away. Except that the Richard Dunwoody who coaxed Allegation home in the Regency Hurdle for Martin Pipe might not be the same man who left the tightknit community of National Hunt racing a month ago for an enforced view through the other end of the telescope.

Much has happened to Dunwoody in the intermission, things which put the matter of how many winners he has given up, how much money he has lost in rides and winnings, how much closer Adrian Maguire has inched in the all-consuming race for the jockeys' title (the score stands at Maguire 114-Dunwoody 113), all the title-tattle and the nonsense which makes National Hunt racing such a unique and exclusive world, into telling perspective.

One message on the answerphone began the process of reflection. It was from Barry Kelly, a trainer and an old friend from way back, and it was inviting Dunwoody to his wedding. "He said now I had a holiday I could come after all," Dunwoody recalled yesterday in the cramped lobby of the weighing room at Warwick.

The words must have hit *Dunwoody like a jackhammer. He had not been home* for a few days because he had to attend a funeral in Ireland, the funeral of Barry Kelly, who had been killed in a car crash with his fiance just a few days before their wedding. "Something like that makes you realise that you're only here for a short time, so you may as well enjoy it. It was as much of a lesson as anything. I have had a great career and enjoyed some great moments, but that was a reminder that you can get so wrapped in your own little world, have such tunnel vision, that you don't realise what's going on anywhere else."

To escape from the vortex, to find a better perspective, Dunwoody went skiing twice and took up an invitation to ride out for the Maktoums' winter stable in Dubai. He entered other worlds, showjumping with Nick Skelton, talked long and hard to David Coulthard, who just a few miles to the south was unveiling the new Williams formula one car and basked in his freedom, sparing no thought for his colleagues slogging through the mid-winter mud. He did not watch a day's racing. "What's the point? You can't do anything about it."

"I really enjoyed getting away from it all, meeting people in other areas of life, having the time to discuss mutual interests, finding out whether the pressure is the same. I can look you in the eye and say I wouldn't have missed that time off for the anything." Not even for the thrill of 20 more winners? "I got my thrills in other ways." And he did look me in the eye and meant every word, even though he had just remembered, through an eight-length victory, why it was he enjoyed riding so much and just reminded everyone else how ridiculously easy he makes his job look.

Not that he is about to step down from his kingdom. "I'll be as committed to riding winners as ever. I'm certainly not going to hand it to Adrian [Maguire]."

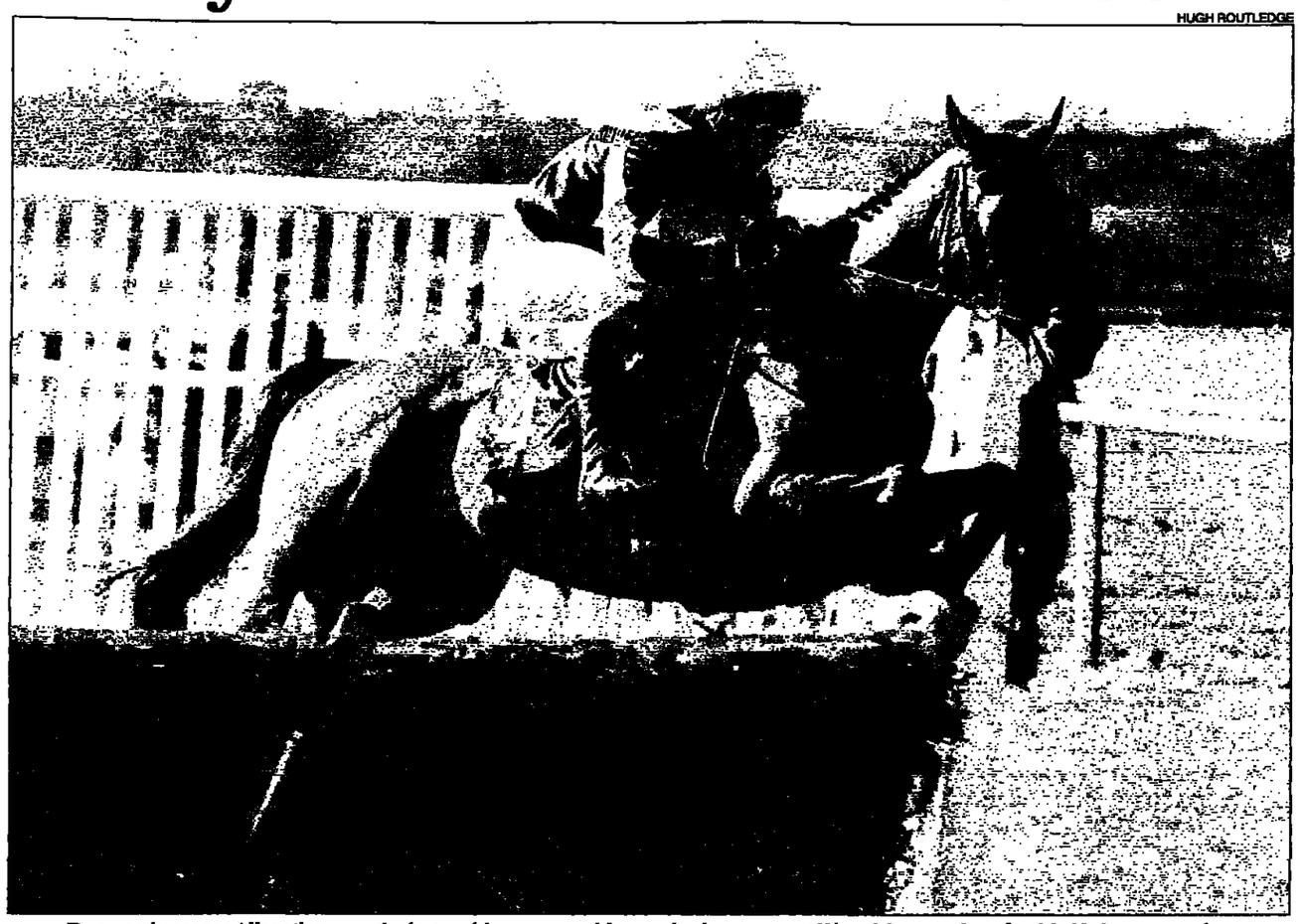
It is just that the days of rushing round the country for the sake of just one more winner, the hours of masochism spent sweating in the sauna to shed that one last pound, might be over. Dunwoody's weight, always the problem for a tall man, has risen to just under 11 stone and the battle to get down to ten stone again, he feels, is just not worth fighting anymore.

"What's the sense in spending three hours in the sauna? It's not good for you, mentally or physically. I don't see the point." He thought a compromise of 10st 6lb would be sensible. "I might even get lower than that, but I'm not going to ruin myself."

Luke Harvey, whose venture up the inside of the champion led to the 30-day ban, will need some convincing of Dunwoody's changing priorities. He would be advised not to test them. Dunwoody himself acknowledged he might be caught up in the spiral once more. But you sense it would be against his better judgment.

"Ask me again in a month when Cheltenham and Aintree are round the corner. I might be the same as ever. But the last four weeks have opened my eyes to another way of life."

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Dunwoody coaxes Allegation over the last on his way to making a winning return at Warwick yesterday after his 30-day suspension

LEADING JOCKEYS

Adrian Maguire	114
Richard Dunwoody	113
Norman Williamson	79
Jamie Osborne	74
Peter Niven	68
David Bridgwater	50
Warren Marston	49
Mark Dwyer	47
Tony Dobbin	46

Club approves new penalty structure

A NEW penalty structure designed to *rid racing of non-triers by introducing bans* for racehorses was granted final approval by the Jockey Club yesterday.

To be introduced on March 2, it will provide local stewards with more power to deal with offences committed on the racecourse. As a result, jockeys will risk bans of up to two weeks for offences that previously incurred fines.

For the first time horses involved in any attempt to deceive the handicapper or set up a future coup can be suspended for 30 days. The guilty rider will also be banned and the trainer fined.

Jockey Club stewards authorised the *recommendations of its disciplinary committee*, first published a month ago and which attempt to ensure the punishment fits the offence, after discussions with the sport's associations.

Announcing the structure, a Jockey Club spokesman said: "The stewards decided that replacing fines with periods of suspension was a fair and more effective deterrent, and that the new penalties would have a positive impact on the problem of non-triers.

"They have therefore decided that, from March 2, stewards of meetings will be given the power to impose suspensions on riders, suspend horses from running and increase the penalties for trainers for breaches of Rule 151.

"Local stewards will also have the power to impose suspensions on riders for misjudgment, mistaking the distance of the race, taking the wrong course or failing to weigh in."

Most concerned by the proposals was the Jockeys' Association, which claimed its members were being "singled out" and argued that by not introducing suspensions for trainers, riders would carry the can for breaches of rule 151.

SEDGEFIELD

THUNDERER

1.50 Wee Wizard
2.20 Grace Card
2.50 Son Of Iris
3.20 Bervie House
3.50 Dorlin Castle
4.20 Youandi

Brian Beel: 3.20 Wily William.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ..... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — stopped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite on latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT PATCHES) SIS

1.50 HARRY LAKE MEMORIAL HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,975: 2m 1f 110yd) (10 runners)

1	222-015	ARAGON AYR 19 (S) (Kelso Members Lowflyers Club) P Monteith 7-12-0	B Harding (5)	94
2	33101	THORNTON GATE 22 (G,S) (T Bennett) M H Easterby 6-11-8	L Wyer	88
3	1625-60	WEE WIZARD 166 (F,G,S) (Armstrong/Greenwell) M Barnes 6-11-7	G Cahill (7)	90
4	24220-3	SRIVIJAYA 13 (BF,F,G) (N Holder) Mrs M Reveley 8-10-13	P Niven	97
5	346162	TWIN FALLS 32 (G) (Mrs S Moore) G Moore 4-10-11	J Callaghan	91
6	310	DOCKMASTER 58 (BF,S) (J Gordon) Miss M Milligan 4-10-4	Richard Guest	89
7	040533	SHAHERAM 22 (CD,S) (Wise Owl Bloodstock) P Beaumont 7-10-0	R Supple	88
8	123	KINTAVI 32 (S) (S Tabarrer) T Donnelly 5-10-0	T Eley (3)	94
9	350131	SUPERHOO 11 (CD,S) (R Coggon) R Craggs 4-10-0	F Leahy (5)	94
10	1014-50	SCARBA 58 (S) (B Gordon) D Garrahan 7-10-0	E Husband (5)	98

Long handicap: Kintavi 9-13, Superhoo 9-13, Scarba 9-7

BETTING: 3-1 Thornton Gate, 4-1 Aragon Ayr, 5-1 Twin Falls, 6-1 Wee Wizard, 7-1 Kintavi, 8-1 Srivijaya, Shaheram, 10-1 Dockmaster, 12-1 others.

1994: MEETING ABANDONED — SNOW

FORM FOCUS

ARAGON AYR beat Rebel King neck in 10-runner handicap hurdle at Ayr (3m, soft) on penultimate start. THORNTON GATE beat Up In Flames 3¼l in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Edinburgh (2m, good to soft). SRIVIJAYA 14l 3rd of 12 to Pinecone Peter in a claiming hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to soft). TWIN FALLS 3l 2nd of 13 to King Athelstan in a handicap hurdle at Catterick (2m, heavy) with KINTAVI (4lb better off) 7l 3rd. DOCKMASTER beat Mazrah 2l in a 16-runner juvenile hurdle at Nottingham (3m, good to soft) on penultimate start. SUPERHOO beat Hot Punch 6l in a 16-runner selling hurdle at Catterick (2m, heavy). Selection: TWIN FALLS (nap)

2.20 NORTH EAST RACING CLUB NOVICES CHASE
(£2,997: 3m 3f) (13 runners)

1	PP5	ALY DALEY 75 (M Tobitt) J Johnson 7-11-12	D Bridgwater	84
2	000U3	BARCHISTE 20 (T Hughes) M W Easterby 7-11-12	R Garritty	–
3	2120-P0	CARSON CITY 30 (G) (J L Fish Ltd) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-12	M Smith	–
4	P0/0-455	GERRYMANDER 15 (H Owen) M Hammond 5-11-12	A Dobbin	–
5	11/122/	GRACE CARD 656F (G,S) (G Farndon) Mrs M Reveley 9-11-12	P Niven	–
6	46-0300	GRIFFINS BAR 43 (M Smith) Mrs P Sly 7-11-12	R Manley	–
7	4/50P5	MISTER HOCHBERG 20 (V,F,S) (Mrs V Ward) Mrs V Ward 9-11-12	B Storey	73
8	02/P4U0	ONE FOR THE CHIEF 57 (G,S) (R Whitaker) R Whitaker 7-11-12	Mr S Whitaker	–
9	6U3624	SNOOK POINT 15 (J Jordon) D Lamb 8-11-12	Mr A Manners (7)	89
10	50F0F	TUDOR FELLOW 20 (J Wade) J Wade 6-11-12	K Jones	–
11	45P420	WILLUBELONG 33 (W Raw) W Raw 6-11-12	M Hourigan	96
12	P0/PP	WOLFSVILLE 15 (Exors. of late R Lamb) D Lamb 7-11-12	J Burke	–
13	64/30	*ESTABLISH 15 (W Harvey) J Dodds 7-11-7*	K Johnson	90

BETTING: 4-5 Grace Card, 9-2 Carson City, 7-1 Gerrymander, 8-1 Snook Point, 12-1 Aly Daley, 14-1 others

FORM FOCUS

ALY DALEY 37½l 5th of 13 to Toogood To Be True in novice chase at Doncaster (3m, good). GRACE CARD 2¾l 2nd of 14 to Sweet Glow in handicap hurdle at Ascot (3m, heavy) penultimate start, Jan 1993. SNOOK POINT 26l 4th of 13 to Brave Buccaneer in novice chase at Carlisle (3m, heavy) with GERRYMANDER 6l 5th, ESTABLISH 33l 7th and WOLFSVILLE pulled up. Previously 12l 2nd of 18 to Crank Shaft in novice chase at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, soft) with WILLUBELONG 67l 7th. TUDOR FELLOW dispelled lead until fell 5 out in an 11-runner novice chase won by Forstown (2m 5f, good) here. WILLUBELONG ½l 2nd of 8 to Highly Decorated in a novices' handicap chase at Catterick (2m 3f, soft) penultimate start.
Selection: SNOOK POINT

2.50 STOKESLEY HANDICAP CHASE (£3,522: 2m 5f) (5 runners)

1	206/1-12	VILLAGE REINDEER 32 (CD,F,S) (J Chester) P Calver 8-11-10	L Wyer	95
2	P2/1-P11	SON OF IRIS 20 (CD,F,G) (MAG Systems Ltd) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-5	P Niven	93
3	232/485-	RUN PET RUN 309 (G,S) (J Beak) D Nolan 10-11-1	N Doughty	89
4	5/684P0	FISH QUAY 19 (F,G,S) (Mrs K Lamb) Mrs K Lamb 12-10-8	Miss S Lamb (7)	–
5	0/F-451	ANOTHER RED 11 (S) (W Raw) W Raw 7-10-0	M Hourigan	86

Long handicap: Fish Quay 9-5, Another Red 9-5.

BETTING: 4-5 Son Of Iris, 6-4 Village Reindeer, 7-1 Another Red, 8-1 Run Pet Run, 20-1 Fish Quay.

FORM FOCUS

VILLAGE REINDEER 3l 2nd of 10 to Abercromby Chief in handicap chase at Catterick (3m 1f, heavy) with FISH QUAY (6lb better off) pulled up. Previously beat Cross Cannon 2l in 5-runner handicap chase over course and distance (good to soft). SON OF IRIS, completed double, beat Integrity Boy ¾l in 10-runner novices' handicap chase over course and distance (good). RUN PET RUN 56½l 5th of 10 to Glenshane Lad in a handicap chase at Perth (3m, good to firm) with FISH QUAY (2lb better off) 15l 6th, April 1994 ANOTHER RED beat Highland Poacher 12l in 6-runner novice chase at Catterick (2m, heavy).
Selection: VILLAGE REINDEER

3.20 SOUTH DURHAM MAIDEN HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £1,995: 2m 5f) (16 runners)

1	443/2-	BERVIE HOUSE 484 (Miss C Raines) K Reveley 7-12-0	S Swiers	–
2	162-P	CHAPEL ISLAND 71P (G) (E W & M Tuer) E Tuer 8-12-0	P Atkinson (7)	–
3	2U4U0-5	CLONDRY CASTLE 16 (B) (Mrs McGuinness) Miss McGuinness 9-12-0	C Bonner (5)	94
4	P3PF-0	CONVINCING 4P (J Comforth) J Comforth 11-12-0	P Comforth (7)	89
5	000/	DEBSE MARSHALL 813 (J Greenall) P Chessbrough 7-12-0	J Greenall	–
6	2U1-3	DONOVANS REEF 17P (S) (Mrs L Marshall) Mrs L Marshall 9-12-0	A Robson (7)	–
7	5533-	FLYPIE 384P (C Storey) Mrs J Storey 7-12-0	Mrs J Storey (7)	–
8	04-U	GRAND PASHA 118 (Mrs A Swinbank) Mrs A Swinbank 7-12-0	Chris Wilson (7)	–
9	49/R-	REGAL SMOKE 340P (F) (S Robinson) S Robinson 8-12-0	S Robinson (7)	–
10	UL912-	REVILLER'S GLORY 305P (G) (Mrs M Beaumont) Mrs A Farrell 11-12-0	Mrs A Farrell	97
11	4P-56	RYDERS WELLS 11P (F) (E Astley-Arlington) Mrs M Morris 8-12-0	K Needham (7)	–
12	215-0	SPY'S DELIGHT 14 (F) (W Woolley) E Woolley 9-12-0	E Woolley (7)	80
13	31-21	WILY WILLIAM 11P (G,S) (D Dickson) T Walford 5-12-0	N Wilson (5)	–
14	5PP-	ADVENT LADY 382P (M Sams) M Sams 8-11-9	M Haigh (7)	–
15	112-2	CAROLE'S DELIGHT 11P (G,S) (C Holden) Mrs L Ward 8-11-9	Mrs L Ward (7)	–
16	00-F	FULL OF CHAT 19 (Mrs S McNichol) Mrs S McNichol 8-11-9	A Manners (7)	–

BETTING: 7-2 Bervie House, 9-2 Carole's Delight, 5-1 Wily William, Debse Marshall, 8-1 Grand Pasha, 10-1 Reviller's Glory, 14-1 Flypie, 20-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

BERVIE HOUSE 11½l 2nd of 16 to Four Deep in a novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 6l 110yd, good) CHAPEL ISLAND 1l 2nd of 12 to Sasso Fair in intermediate at Morpeth (3m, good to firm) on penultimate start, May 1994 DONOVANS REEF 20l 3rd of 19 to County Tarragon on a restricted at Aintree (3m, good). REVILLER'S GLORY 8l 2nd of 14 to Force Eight in a restricted at Southwell (3m, soft) SPY'S DELIGHT best effort last season, beat Pinky Dinky Doo 6l in 15-runner maiden open at Weston Park (3m, good to firm). WILY WILLIAM beat Ubu Val 1l in a 14-runner club members at Wetherby (3m, heavy) with RYDERS WELLS 58l 6th. CAROLE'S DELIGHT 5l 2nd of 14 to Peajade in a ladies' open at Wetherby (3m, heavy).
Selection: REVILLER'S GLORY

3.50 COLIN TINKLER HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,285: 3m 3f 110yd) (8 runners)

1	1-6	DASHING DULA 58 (C,F) (Mrs J Askew) Mrs M Reveley 9-11-10	N Smith	85
2	6P-4110	FARMER'S CROSS 39 (C,G,S) (Mrs A Farrell) P Beaumont 11-11-7	Mrs A Farrell	94
3	12144F	GLANDALANE LADY 53 (F,S) (Mrs M O'Neill) J J O'Neill 6-11-6	R McGrath (7)	88
4	232/4U0	URDN V 15 (F,S) (G Faber/P Ambler) Mrs M Reveley 9-11-1	P Niven	–
5	P/6P5P1	MISS CAPULET 15 (B,G,S) (C P Racing) T Donnelly 8-11-0	T Eley (3)	89
6	5/64P12	DORLIN CASTLE 15 (S) (Mrs D Greig) L Lungo 7-11-0	T Reed	88
7	5-PP682	SHELTON ABBEY 67 (B,CD,F,G,S) (J Wade) J Wade 9-10-6	K Jones	90
8	2-34564	TRUELY ROYAL 32 (B,G,S) (I Pearson) J Charlton 11-10-5	B Storey	–

BETTING: 11-4 Dorlin Castle, 7-2 Farmer's Cross, 4-1 Miss Capulet, 5-1 Glandalane Lady, 7-1 Shelton Abbey, 8-1 Uron V, 12-1 Dashing Dula, 16-1 Truely Royal

FORM FOCUS

DASHING DULA 21½l 6th of 12 to Memorable in handicap hurdle here (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft). FARMER'S CROSS completed double beat Monaru 14¼l in 11-runner handicap hurdle at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, soft) penultimate start. GLANDALANE LADY 20¾l 4th of 12 to Magus in a handicap hurdle over course and distance (good to soft) on penultimate start. URDN V best recent effort about 4¼l 4th of 14 to Ninda in novice chase at Carlisle (3m, soft) with MISS CAPULET (4lb worse off) pulled up 3 out. MISS CAPULET beat DORLIN CASTLE (2lb better off) 2¼ in a 9-runner conditional jockeys' handicap hurdle at Carlisle (3m 110yd, heavy). DORLIN CASTLE beat Mister Muddypaws 14l in a 23-runner maiden hurdle at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, soft) on penultimate start. SHELTON ABBEY ½l 2nd of 14 to Very Evident in a handicap hurdle at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft).
Selection: DORLIN CASTLE

4.20 BILLINGHAM NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,408: 2m 1f 110yd) (9 runners)

1	12-3212	LOCHNAGRAIN 19 (BF,S) (Lightbody of Hamilton) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-7	P Niven	89
2	00-1006	SOLAR NOVA 33 (CD,G) (Mrs C Park) I Park 7-11-2	N Smith	84
3	0-051	YOUANDI 11 (S) (J Watson) L Lungo 5-11-2	T Reed	83
4	0	KINGS MINSTRAL 134 (Exors of late R Lamb) D Lamb 5-11-0	Mr A Manners (7)	–
5	5	RYE CROSSING 32 (C Stevens) M H Easterby 5-11-0	L Wyer	–
6	00-	WHATDEYOUSAY 359 (Mrs D Beadlebl) B Beadlebl 7-11-0	A Roche (5)	–
7	00	MOLLY MINSTREL 15 (J Johnson) J Johnson 6-10-9	D Bridgwater	–
8	6-00	OWENS QUEST 22 (London Racing Club) T Etherington 5-10-9	A Thornton	62
9	4-008	TACTIX 15 (D Teasdale) Miss M Milligan 5-10-9	Richard Guest	–

BETTING: 6-4 Lochnagrain, 5-2 Youandi, 5-1 Solar Nova, 6-1 Rye Crossing, 12-1 Tactix, 20-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

LOCHNAGRAIN 4l 2nd of 17 to Willis Talmar in novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 2f, good to soft). SOLAR NOVA 28½l 6th of 15 to Ingletonian in novice hurdle at Catterick (2m 3f, soft) with TACTIX (2lb better off) 20½l 8th and YOUANDI (4lb worse off) 25l 11th. YOUANDI beat Craigie Rambler 10l in 12-runner maiden hurdle at Ayr (3m, heavy) RYE CROSSING 28l 5th of 17 to Go-Informal in NH flat race at Haydock (2m, heavy).
Selection: LOCHNAGRAIN

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Mrs M Reveley	70	230	30.4%	P Niven	56	193	29.0
I Park	5	17	29.4%	L Wyer	28	114	24.6
M H Easterby	24	98	24.5%	F Leahy	6	32	18.8
L Lungo	8	38	21.1%	J Callaghan	22	121	18.2
G Moore	30	152	19.7%	R Manley	8	52	15.4
P Chessbrough	4	21	19.0%	Mrs A Farrell	4	27	14.8

Beith questions Tote post

THE Nolan committee, which is inquiring into standards in public life, has been asked to examine the way the Home Secretary appoints the chairman of the Tote, the position held by Lord Wyatt of Weeford (Richard Evans writes). Alan Beith, deputy leader of the Liberal Democrats, has forwarded copies of articles written by Lord Wyatt in *The Times* and the *News of the World* to Lord Nolan and in a letter asked: "Lord Wyatt is known for his support of the Government in general and the Home Secretary in particular. How are we to know this support would not be a factor in Lord Wyatt's reappointment, particularly as there is no open competition for this important and very well paid post?" Beith's letter comes days before Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, is expected to reappoint Lord Wyatt, 76, to his £95,000 a year post for a further two years.

FOLKESTONE

THUNDERER

1.40 Whitebonnet. 2.10 Cobb Gate. 2.40 Mister Oddy. 3.10 Minster's Madam. 3.40 Cool Dawn. 4.10 **CRABBY BILL** (nap). 4.40 River Bounty.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.40 **RIVER BOUNTY.**

Brian Beel: 3.40 Cool Dawn. 4.40 River Bounty.

GOING: SOFT, HEAVY IN PLACES (CHASE COURSE); HEAVY (HURDLES) SIS

1.40 KYTHE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,194: 2m 1f 110yd) (15 runners)

1	3-1P	MUHTASHIM 114 (B,D,S) R Phillips 5-12-0	J Railton	80
2	020	WHITEBONNET 14 (B) C Egerton 5-11-10	J Osborne	95
3	3420	SPANISH REFUGE 20 (Ms L Richards 5-11-9	M Richards	89
4	4102	DUELQUE CHOISE 9 (G) B Meehan 5-11-9	B Powell	93
5	0-32	ELLOGY 34 N Burke 8-11-4	M A Fitzgerald	96
6	-440	RIVER LEVEN 18 (S) D Gandolfo 6-11-1	R Dunwoody	91
7	P32P	DESERT PRESIDENT 5 (B,BF) R Head 4-10-9	A S Smith	96
8	60P6	AMILLIONMEMORIES 58 (B) Mrs B Waring 5-10-0	E Byrne	93
9	3PP/	PRECIOUS WONDER 134F P Butler 6-10-0	A P McCoy (3)	–
10	36F	DOCTOR DEATH 18 (V) M Dixon 4-10-0	N Williamson	89
11	600-	FERENS HALL 287 M Roberts 8-10-0	Peter Hobbs	93
12	-500	AUSTRAL JANE 67 S Thomas 5-10-0	R Farrant	92
13	P/03	ALDWICK COLONNADE 16 M Usher 8-10-0	A Maguire	86
14	PFP-	FELICE'S PET 282 A Neaves 5-10-0	J R Kavanagh	–
15	P00P	CHURCH STAR 37 (B) J Bridger 11-10-0	Rachel Bridger (7)	–

9-2 Quelque Chose, 6-1 Eulogy, 7-1 Muhtashim, 8-1 Whitebonnet, 10-1 River Leven, 10-1 Spanish Refuge, Amillionmemories, 12-1 others.

2.10 STANFORD SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,656: 2m 1f 110yd) (12)

1	P3-0	DERSSBAY 19F (B,D,F,S,S) J Bridger 7-11-10	D O'Sullivan	90
2	00-P	BAYLORD PRINCE 20 (CD,S) Miss J East 7-11-3	D Fortt (5)	83
3	4320	COBB GATE 14 (B,D,S) B Stevens 7-11-0	M Stevens	93
4	P343	KRYAZ 44 (B,S) Mrs L Richards 5-10-13	M Richards	95
5	-P20	MARAADY 55 G Enright 6-10-10	M Perrett	93
6	4304	TINA'S CHARM 36F J Moore 6-10-3	G Bradley	90
7	5305	FLAPPING FREDA 13 (V) J Jenkins 7-10-3	N Williamson	98
8	3-58	OUR WIKKI 14 P Bodkin 5-10-1	S Burrough	89
9	-P44	CHEVELEY DANCER 65 (S) D Wilson 7-10-0	A Maguire	85
10	03U4	STAPLEFORD LADY 16 J Moore 7-10-0	W McFarland	94
11	0650	BAN RI 44 A Neaves 5-10-0	J R Kavanagh	–
12	600-	VERRO 116F N Bishop 8-10-0	L Harvey	–

7-2 Cheveley Dancer, 5-1 Kryaz, 6-1 Bayford Prince, Tina's Charm, 7-1 others.

2.40 GAY RECORD CHALLENGE TROPHY
(Handicap chase: £2,587: 2m) (6)

1	2122	MISTER ODDY 5 (CD,BF,G,S) J King 9-12-0	T Jarvis	89
2	2F42	EVENING RAIN 9 (D,BF,F,G,S) R Hodges 9-11-7	R Dunwoody	88
3	1231	COURT RAPIER 51 (D,F,G,S) R Alner 13-11-0	Mr P Henley (7)	88
4	0022	DEAR DO 37 N Henderson 8-10-6	M A Fitzgerald	91
5	-360	HANDSOME NED 13 (B,G,S) D Gandolfo 9-10-3	J Railton	87
6	5FP0	JOKER JACK 42 (F,S) R Dean 10-10-0	P McLoughlin (5)	76

6-4 Mister Oddy, 9-4 Court Rapier, 11-4 Evening Rain, 8-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Folkestone: 1.40 Desert President, Doctor Death. 3.10 Celtic Lilley, Minster's Madam, In Deep Friendship, Saffron River. Sedgefield: 3.50 Truely Royal. Wolverhampton: 2.00 Severn Gale 3.30 Johns Act.

3.10 LYMPNE NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE
(£2,167: 2m 6l 110yd) (11)

1	0-FP	IN DEEP FRIENDSHIP 34 (B) S Sherwood 7-11-12	J Osborne	–
2	-I3P	CARABUCK 16 R Rowe 8-11-7	E Murphy	87
3	2220	FAST RUN 18 (F) J Mullins 7-11-7	S Curran (5)	95
4	0004	UPWARD SURGE 8 N Bailey 5-11-6	N Williamson	80
5	0-60	DUNLIR 15 P Rodford 5-11-5	S Burrough	–
6	P	SHOMBERG 13 J Whyte 5-11-5	J R Kavanagh	–
7	-000	WITH GUSTO 19F J Bridger 8-11-4	D O'Sullivan	–
8	030P	CELTIC LILLEY 16 (B) R Hoad 5-11-2	A S Smith	88
9		KEEP ON TRYING 697P Mrs M McCourt 8-11-0	G McCourt	–
10	0056	SAFFRON RIVER 20 (V) W G M Turner 4-10-4	M Griffiths (7)	95
11	0214	MINSTER'S MADAM 34 (B,S) R Simpson 4-10-3	D Gallagher	89

5-2 Minster's Madam, 7-2 Fast Run, 5-1 Carabuck, Saffron River, 8-1 others

3.40 TENTERDEN MAIDEN HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £1,126: 3m 5f) (9)

1	32	BALLYNYHO 11P P Venner 8-12-7	P Harding-Jones (5)	–
2	4U-P	COMME FOLEY 38P Mrs P Townsley 9-12-7	P Townsley (7)	–
3	R-17	COOL DAWN 18P (S,S) H Wellstead 7-12-7	Miss D Harding (7)	–
4	12/2	LINRED 11P (F,G,S) M Roberts 10-12-7	T McCarthy (7)	–
5	234-	MR GOLIGHTLY 334 (G,S) Mrs S Cobden 8-12-7	Miss J Cobden (7)	94
6	31-P	PEA SAL 38P (F,S) Mrs A Farrant 12-12-7	C Gordon (7)	–
7	31/P	PINOCCIO 6 (F) D O'Brien 8-12-7	G Brown (7)	–
8	314-	RUSTY RAILS 288 (F,G,S) G Smith 12-12-7	Mrs N Lodger (7)	79
9	21-3	ST LAYCAR 18P (G,S) J Porter 10-12-7	A Greig (7)	89

10-11 Cool Dawn, 4-1 Mr Golightly, 8-1 Linred, 12-1 Ballynyho 14-1 others.

4.10 FOLKESTONE HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,422: 2m 6l 110yd) (13)

1	430-	ALL JEFF 300 (F,G,S) C Brooks 11-11-10	G Bradley	–
2	113-	THERMAL WARRIOR 309 (S) J Old 7-10-13	T Greenham	93
3	44-3	CRABBY BILL 4 (V,D,G,S) Miss B Sanders 8-10-7	A Dicken	98
4	061R	CARFAX 5 (B,CD,G,S) R Head 10-10-6	A S Smith	95
5	3/44	OFFICER CADET 58 (CD,G,S) Mrs L Jewell 8-10-0	A Maguire	90
6	P-42	JUST A SECOND 11 C Drewe 10-10-0	A P McCoy (3)	91
7	R123	LYING EYES 20 (S) W G M Turner 4-10-0	M Griffiths (7)	92
8	-PP0	DERRING VALLEY 11 (B,F,G,S) A Jones 10-10-0	L Harvey	90
9	3-P0	SCENT OF BATTLE 35 (C,S) M Haynes 7-10-0	D Skyrme	85
10	-621	VILLA PARK 18 (D,F,S) G Wareham 13-10-0	M Perrett	89
11	R02	PLACE STEPHANIE 44 (S) R Rowe 7-10-0	D Carson (7)	89
12	FFPP	CYPRUS 58 (F,G) Miss J Doyle 7-10-0	S Curran (5)	–
13	2410	ROWLANDSONS GOLD 29 (G,S) G L Moore 5-10-0	D Gallagher	99

4-1 Just A Second, 9-2 Crabby Bill, 5-1 All Jeff, Thermal Warrior, 6-1 Lying Eyes, 8-1 Officer Cadet, 10-1 Place Stephanie, 12-1 Villa Park, 14-1 others.

4.40 EAST KENT OPEN HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £1,618: 3m 2f) (6)

1	12-3	GREEN TIMES 12 (G,S) N Gaselee 10-12-7	W Ramsay (7)	75
2	22-3	MR MURDOCH 35P (F,S,S) H Wellstead 10-12-7	P Hanley (7)	81
3	61-3	SNOWY LANE 18P (V,G,S) R Simpson 7-12-7	E Williams (7)	71
4	62-1	RIVER BOUNTY 6 (F,G,S) C Brooks 9-12-4	E James (7)	89
5	521-	NO FIZZ 288 (CD,F,G,S) Mr D Grissell 9-12-2	P Hacking (3)	64
6	0-55	SKINNHILL 18P (B,F,G,S) J Porter 11-12-0	Miss N Binnington (7)	65

10-11 River Bounty 3-1 Mr Murdoch, 7-1 Green Times, No Fizz, 12-1 Snowy Lane, 33-1 Skinnhill.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: N Henderson, 4 winners from 18 runners, 22.2%, R Rowe, 8 from 42, 19.0%, D Grissell, 9 from 49, 18.4%. Only qualifiers.

JOCKEYS: M Richards, 6 winners from 28 rides, 28.6%, R Dunwoody, 9 from 50, 18.0%, A Maguire, 10 from 58, 17.2%, E Murphy, 3 from 18, 16.7%, L Harvey, 3 from 18, 16.7%, M Perrett, 5 from 31, 16.1%

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

2.00 Hand Craft. 2.30 Spencer's Revenge. 3.00 Sarasi. 3.30 Chimborazo. 4.00 Summer Villa. 4.30 Leigh Crofter.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.00 Hand Craft. 3.00 **GRAND SELECTION** (nap). 3.30 Benfleet.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

2.00 PHILMAC VALVE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (£3,010: 7f) (6 runners)

101	20-5	MARY'S CASE 4 M Johnston 9-9-10	T Williams 5	
102	40	SEVERN GALE 14 (B) K White 9-9-5	J Weaver 2	
103	55-	DONT FORGET CURTIS 126 J Fanshawe 8-8-6	D Harrison 6	
104		HAND CRAFT W Haggas 8-8-6	L Dettori 3	
105	32	HUTHATCH 15 M Usher 8-8-1	C Adamson (7) 1	
106	400-	SH

Russia to sell its sporting secrets to Australia

RUSSIA, the driving force behind the former Soviet Union's domination of the Olympic Games after the Second World War, has agreed to sell its sporting secrets to Australia for US$1 million (about £634,000).

Australia, which will host the 2000 Games in Sydney, is paying for Russian expertise in the hope of improving its standing in the medals table.

"We are buying 70 years of success," Craig McLatchey, the Australian Olympic Committee sports director, said yesterday. He said that Russia would be paid on an hourly basis over the next five years for providing assistance in boxing, wrestling, weightlifting, judo, athletics and shooting.

"The Russians need a source of funding because many of their programmes are short of money," McLatchey said. Australian competitors won 27 medals at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, and the country has set a target of 60 medals — including 20 gold medals — as host nation in 2000.

Under the agreement, Russia will provide details of its training, diet and sports psychology programmes, bio-mechanical research, planning procedures and monitoring methods.

"Money alone cannot guarantee success in sport, but without money there is only one guarantee — you will not achieve success," McLatchey said. "In these particular sports, Russia is clearly the best and this agreement is aimed at producing successful sports programmes across the board in Australia to go beyond 2000."

The deal was agreed two weeks ago when Anatoly Kolosev, the director of the team Russia will send to the Olympics in Atlanta next summer, visited Sydney. Kolosev was vice-minister for sport in the Soviet Union. The agreement will entail regular exchanges of coaches, competitors and sports scientists. Discussions began nearly a year ago, when McLatchey headed an Australian fact-finding mission to Moscow.

"We were particularly impressed with the way the Russian sporting authorities planned their programmes," McLatchey said. "As an Olympic rival, we are no threat to them and the Russians were keen to form a closer relationship with Australia as the hosts of the 2000 Games."

Each of the six sports chosen for the agreement involves multiple events, increasing Australia's potential return on its investment in terms of medals. Australia will spend Aus$350 million (about £164 million) on a government-funded programme aimed at securing more medals in Atlanta and Sydney.

"This investment is good insurance," McLatchey said. Australia, which dominated the Commonwealth Games in Victoria, British Columbia, last year, has already seen the benefits of employing coaches from the former Soviet Union and China and would love to challenge the leading sporting nations, such as Russia, the United States and Germany, in the Olympics.

Liverpool prepare Dane for Coca-Cola Cup semi-final

Molby sweeps into contention

BY PETER BALL



Rush, the Liverpool captain, who will lead his side in defence of a slender advantage at Selhurst Park tonight

AFTER a three-month absence, Jan Molby is standing by to make a comeback for Liverpool in the club's most important match of the season so far, the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final second leg with Crystal Palace tonight. Molby was surprisingly included in the squad that travelled to London yesterday.

The Dane has not played for Liverpool since the 2-0 defeat against Everton on November 21, when he sustained a calf injury. He has played only two reserve games since then, but, with Ruddock suspended for a game which Liverpool enter with a one-goal lead, he could be employed as a sweeper in front of or behind the back four.

"I've got three or four options," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said yesterday. "I'm possibly pushing Jan back a little too early, and I'm not certain that we will use him, but we could. He is in my plans and my thoughts. I would like him to be a bit fitter, but that's life. It is not a perfect world."

Although Ruddock is suspended, Babb returns in his place after missing the FA Cup tie with Wimbledon on Sunday. Then, Liverpool played with a back four, but the need to protect a slender lead might persuade Evans that the more regular formation of three central defenders is preferable, opening the way for Molby.

"He was outstanding on the first day of the season at Crystal Palace," Evans said, out, although that was in his more familiar role in midfield. Palace will need no reminding that Liverpool won that game 6-1. Molby's last appearance was also the last time Liverpool have conceded two goals in a match, a measure of Crystal Palace's task.

"We must go with confidence and play sensibly," Evans said. "We mustn't go there believing we can hold out, we must go with attacking ideas of our own. They will have to come out and play more and that will give us more space, which could suit us."

In the other semi-final at Bolton, Swindon Town, like Liverpool have a one-goal advantage to protect. There, the resemblance ends. Bolton Wanderers are full of confidence and at present top the Endsleigh Insurance League, while Swindon's injury problems are getting worse rather than better.

The loss of Shaun Taylor in a defence already without Culverhouse and Bodin is a serious setback blow for a team likely to be under pressure from the start against a side that has taken the notable scalps of Liverpool, Arsenal, Everton, Aston Villa and Norwich City in the past three seasons.

Bruce Rioch, the Bolton manager, has protested all along that promotion is the priority, but with Wembley one game away, his guard dropped this week. "Battling to Wembley is something that would mean such a great deal to everybody, and we're no different," Rioch said, "but it needs a team effort, just like the one against Barnsley.

"We know we can play, we've the talent and the capability to play well." Nobody will doubt that, and for half an hour in the first leg they looked capable of deciding the tie there and then.

With Wembley only a game away, the Coca-Cola Cup offers instant gratification or despair, but, in the long term, some games in the Premiership programme tonight may prove equally significant, with the leaders, Blackburn Rovers, Manchester United and a clutch of the clubs involved at the wrong end of the table all playing.

Blackburn entertain Wimbledon, whose recent form has been erratic to say the least, with a 7-1 defeat at Villa park followed by the 1-1 draw at Anfield, always one of their happy hunting grounds, on Sunday. Wimbledon have had their moments, or incidents, at Ewood Park, too, but Kenny Dalglish, the Blackburn manager, was full of praise for the south London team yesterday.

"Wimbledon have changed virtually their entire team since Joe Kinnear's [the manager] arrival," Dalglish said. "It's a tremendous achievement and a reflection on Wimbledon's ability and desire to stay where they are."

Manchester United travel to Norwich, the first, and perhaps least forbidding of a run of four away games which will test their capacity to keep up with Blackburn. With United suddenly running into their best form, Alex Ferguson is facing the manager's favourite dilemma — who to leave out. Cole returns after missing the cup-tie on Sunday, but Ferguson has still to announce who will make way for him.

Hearts revelling in cup hullabaloo

BY KEVIN MCCARRA

FOR a football tournament of such antiquity, the Scottish Cup has surprisingly acquired a youthful taste for noise and mayhem. Heart of Midlothian's 4-2 defeat of Rangers in their fourth-round tie at Tynecastle on Monday was a match of glorious hullabaloo.

Tommy McLean, the manager of the Edinburgh club, shunned his office yesterday, preferring a trip to Bathgate for a reserve match. Perhaps he considered a look at his second XI the best sedative after the excitement of the previous evening.

Although Rangers had also been beaten by Aberdeen in their previous match, defeats for the Ibrox team are still scarce enough to carry the air of an enigma. Mark Hateley's absence from the match encouraged gossip. The explanation, however, proved mundane, if still distressing enough for his employers. The centre-forward will see a specialist tomorrow and may require a groin operation, which would bring a premature end to his season.

Hateley's difficulties have been glaring for a few weeks and, despite being Rangers top scorer, his last goal was on Boxing Day. "Mark has been troubled by the injury since early January," Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, said, "and the effect it was having was plain for everyone to see."

Speculation that Hateley might join his first club, Coventry City, as assistant to Ron Atkinson, their new manager, is ill-founded. At 33, Hateley's desire for further action on the field with Rangers is unabated and, if the worst comes to the worst, he will surely plan a comeback for August. Surgery might also be required by Andy Goram, the Rangers goalkeeper, whose damaged tendon has not healed.



Hateley: to see specialist

After the defeat at Tynecastle, though, Rangers must cope with the wounding knowledge that the recovery of such players is of no immediate importance. Rangers, with a 14-point lead, are almost beyond reach in the Scottish League championship and, with their removal from the Tennents Scottish Cup, face no further challenges this season.

They were certainly ill-equipped to deal with the assault by Hearts. Brian Laudrup, in a majestic first season with Rangers, seems to have encouraged a dangerous dependence among his teammates. The Dane was limited by the effects of flu on Monday and his colleagues proved unable to compensate. Rangers, 2-0 behind at the interval, rallied to level the score, but soon succumbed once again.

Throughout the match, an exhilarating Hearts team was capable of reducing the visitors' defence to confusion. In the end, their bravado did not fail them, and they defeated Smith's side for the first time since 1991. "I had questioned my players before the game," McLean said, "but they answered me tonight."

Since being appointed in the summer, McLean has rejuvenated Hearts, without being averse to employing some old faces in the process. Jim Bett, formerly of Aberdeen, has developed an aversion to the haste and disorder of Scottish football, but the manager's pleas have persuaded the refined midfield player, 35, to remain until at least the end of the season.

There should be curiosity to sustain Bett. In the absence of any overwhelming favourites, the identity of this season's Cup-winners is becoming ever more difficult to predict.

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Quarter-final dates: March 10: Celtic v Kilmarnock. March 11: Raith Rovers v Airdrieonians; Stenhousemuir v Hibernian. March 12: Heart of Midlothian v Dundee United.

☐ Ajax, the Holland champions, will protest strongly against any punishment handed out to their players for boycotting the national team. Eight Ajax players have refused to play for against Portugal in Eindhoven tonight, and the Dutch football association has said it is considering what action to take.

FA switches cup-tie after fans protest

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

PROTESTS by supporters of the two football clubs have persuaded the Football Association to bring forward the FA Cup sixth-round tie between Manchester United and Queens Park Rangers by a day.

The game, originally scheduled for Saturday, March 11, was to have been played at Old Trafford the following Monday to meet the demands of Sky Television's live coverage.

But yesterday the FA switched the match again, to 1pm on the Sunday, after it was inundated with telephone calls from people who would have been unable to attend to on a weekday evening.

An FA official said: "We received a lot of complaints from people who planned to travel to the game and the clubs and Sky were happy to reschedule to the Sunday." The decision will provide a television double bill, with Everton v Newcastle United being shown live on BBC at 3pm on the same day.

John Keeley, 33, the Peterborough United goalkeeper, has left the Endsleigh Insurance League second division club by mutual consent. Keeley was involved in exchanges with the club's supporters after being heckled and pelted during the 4-2 defeat at Bradford City on Saturday. It was Keeley's third game for Peterborough since being signed from Stockport County earlier this month.

John Still, the Peterborough manager, has signed the American goalkeeper, Ian Feuer, on loan from West Ham United and he was due to make his debut at home to Brighton last night.

Still said: "What some of our so-called supporters did was definitely out of order but, as a club, we also feel that John should have been able to handle the situation without reacting as he did."

RADIO CHOICE

Doyle with a touch of Lear

The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes. *Radio 4, 2.00pm.*

It is enough that Holmes is a super sleuth without being a super spouter of Shakespeare as well. His Lear, heard briefly at the start of Bert Coules's adaptation of *The Problem of Thor Bridge*, is not very good. This foray into Bardland is Coules's idea. The rest of his radio version of *Thor Bridge* is pretty much as Conan Doyle penned it: jealous Brazilian wife (Jilly Bond) of American gold tycoon (William Hootkins) found shot dead on bridge of English estate: nice governess (Charlotte Attenborough) accused of murder; missing gun helps Holmes to establish identity of real killer. Clive Merrison and Michael Williams have now wriggled snuggly into the skins of Holmes and Watson.

Opera House. *Radio 4, 8.45pm.*

As orchestral conductor, Jane Glover has seen the inside of more than one opera house. So hers is the voice of authority in these six profiles of the world's most celebrated temples of musical drama. Tonight finds her at the Staatsoper in what used to be East Berlin. Returning to something like its former glory, the Staatsoper is attracting renowned singers and conductors. Its trump card, by general consent, is its reigning conductor, Daniel Barenboim. He follows in the footsteps of Karajan, Klemperer and Furtwängler. I hoped Glover would paint a picture of the auditorium for those of us who have not been there. She does not.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Bruno Brookes 6.30 Steve Wright 9.00 Kevin Greening 12.00 Lisa L'Anson, including at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat, and at 1.15 The Net 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier: including The Amazing Spiderman; and at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session 8.00 Bits from Last Week's Radio 10.00 Stuart Maconie Midnight Claire Sturgess

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Gloria Hunniford 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 Martin Kelner 7.00 Jim Lloyd with Folk on 2 8.00 Womanlook 8.30 Barbershop Style 9.00 Black Voices 9.30 Nigel Ogden 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, including at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, including at 6.55 and 7.55 Racing Preview 8.35 The Magazine including at 10.35 Euronews; 11.15 Natural History 12.00 Midday with Mair, including at 12.34pm Liz Barclay with Moneycheck 2.05 Ruscoe on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, including at 7.20 the day's sport in full 7.35 Trevor Brooking's Football Night: Crystal Palace v Liverpool; Bolton v Swindon 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Maurice Dee and Carol McGiffin 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Raeburn 3.00 Tommy Boyd 7.00 Samantha Meah and Sean Bolger 10.00 Caesar the Geezer 1.00am Wild Al Kelly

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 4.30am BBC English 4.45 Fruhmagazin 5.00 Newshour 6.00 Morgenmagazin 8.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Jean de Florette 7.30 World of Music 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Early Versions 8.30 Megamix 9.00 News 9.05 Business 9.15 Country Style 9.30 What's News? 9.45 Sport 10.00 News 10.01 Omnibus 10.30 Jazz for the Asking 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 BBC English 11.45 Mittagsmagazin 12.00 News 12.10pm Words of Faith 12.15 New Ideas 12.35 The Life of Numbers 12.45 Sport 1.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Jean de Florette 2.45 Good Books 3.00 News 3.15 From Our Own Correspondent 3.30 Quote, Unquote 4.00 News 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Heute Aktuell 5.00 News 5.05 Business 5.15 BBC English 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.00 News 7.05 Outlook 7.30 Omnibus 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 The World Today 8.30 Europe Today 9.00 News 10.05 Business 10.15 Sport 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Multitrack: X-Press 12.00 News 12.15am The Greenfield Collection 1.00 News 1.05 Outlook 1.30 Waveguide 1.40 Book Choice 1.45 Farming World 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Sport 3.00 News 3.15 Sport 3.30 Assignment 4.00 Newsdesk

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey 9.00 Harry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto: Tchaikovsky (Variations on a rococo theme) 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.00 Classic Reports 7.00 Gardening Forum (r) 8.00 Concert 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am André Leon

VIRGIN

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono's Breakfast Show 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Wendy Lloyd 7.00 Paul Coyle 11.00 Nick Abbot 2.00-6.00am Janey Lee Grace

RADIO 3

6.30am **Open University:** The music of Sir Arthur Sullivan 6.55 Weather

7.00 **On Air:** Mendelssohn (String Symphony No 2 in D); Stravinsky (Suite: The Firebird); Samuel Wesley (Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace); Telemann (Concerto in E flat for two trumpets); Brahms (Theme and Variations for piano, Sextet in B flat, Op 18): 8.40 *Quartet Collection:* Haydn (String Quartet in G, Op 64 No 4)

9.00 **Composers of the Week:** The Court of Dresden. Johann Hasse (Sinfonia; Perder l'amato bene, Cleofide); Johann Quantz (Trio Sonata in G); Johann Hasse (Flute Concerto in B minor): Vivaldi (Concerto in C)

10.00 **Midweek Choice:** With Susan Sharpe. J. Strauss, son (Waltz: Nordseebilder); Mozart (Piano Sonata in F); Diepenbrock (Hymn); Beethoven (Sanctus; Benedictus, Missa Solemnis); Bach (Toccata and Fugue in D minor); William Mathias (Elegy for a Prince); Dvořák (The Noonday Witch): Villa-Lobos (The Little Train of the Caipira, Bachianas brasileiras)

12.00 **The BBC Orchestras:** BBC Concert Orchestra under Jane Glover. Reger (A Comedy Overture); Boris Blacher (Variations on a theme of Paganini); Dohnányi (Suite in F sharp minor, Op 19) (r)

1.00pm **Concert Hall:** Gould Piano Trio. Beethoven (Trio in C minor, Op 1 No 3); Fauré (Trio in D minor, Op 120)

2.00 **Japanese Radio Symphony Orchestra** under Kazuhiro Koizumi: Glinka (Three Dances, A Life for the Tsar); Rachmaninov (Symphony No 3 in A minor)

3.00 **Record Review:** Presented by Richard Osborne. *Building a Library:* Recordings by the American soprano Leontyne Price

4.00 **Choral Evensong,** live from Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin

5.00 **The Music Machine:** Techniques used by minimalist composers (r)

5.15 **In Tune,** with Natalie Wheen. Schubert (Impromtu in G flat); Rachmaninov (Symphonic Dances, Op 45 first movement); Fauré (Piano Quartet No 1 in C minor, fourth movement); Glass (Concerto for violin and orchestra, first movement)

7.30 **Towards the Millennium:** Paul Crossley, piano; City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Chorus (women's voices) under Simon Rattle perform Stravinsky (Orpheus); Messiaen (Trois petites liturgies de la Présence Divine); 8.40 Interval: Lyndon Jenkins looks at the 1940s in Birmingham 9.00 Bartók (Concerto for Orchestra)

9.45 **Second Draft from Sageland:** Simon Armitage and Glyn Maxwell go fishing with Johann Sigurjonsson

10.05 **BBC Singers in Residence:** Introduced by Michael Emery

10.45 **Night Waves:** Investigating national identity

11.30-12.30am **Ensemble:** Music by Haydn

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing; Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today incl 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather

9.00 **News 9.05 Midweek:** With *Times* columnist Libby Purves and guest Imogen Stubbs

10.00-10.30 **News; Act Your Age (FM only):** The mid-life crisis

10.00 **Daily Service (LW only)**

10.15 **Children's Radio 4: Marrying Off Mum (LW only),** by Janice Marriott (r)

10.30 **Woman's Hour:** Introduced by Jenni Murray

11.30 **Gardeners' Question Time:** Eric Robson and experts solve problems posed by members of the Chesham Horticultural Society (r)

12.00 **News; You and Yours:** With Deire Brehan

12.25pm **Rent,** by Lucy Flannery. The award-winning sitcom, starring Barbara Flynn, Patrick Barlow, Linda Polan, Toby Longworth and Vivienne Rochester 12.55 Weather

1.00 **The World at One,** with Nick Clarke

1.40 **The Archers** (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast

2.00 **News; The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes:** See Choice

2.45 **Destination America:** Christopher Cook talks to individuals who emigrated to America in the early part of the century via Ellis Island, the immigration station in New York harbour

3.00 **News; The Afternoon Shift:** An hour of news and music

4.00 **News 4.05 Kaleidoscope:** Brian Sibley sees Oliver Stone's *Natural Born Killers* and some of the week's other film releases, including *The River Wild* starring Meryl Streep

4.45 **Short Story: Two Birds, One Stone.** Diana Quick reads Lesley Grant-Adamson's story

5.00 **PM,** with Chris Lowe and Linda Lewis 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

6.00 **Six O'Clock News**

6.30 **Counterpoint:** Heat eight of the music quiz conducted by Ned Sherrin (r)

7.00 **News 7.05 The Archers**

7.20 **Face the Facts:** With John Waite

7.45 **Medicine Now:** With Geoff Watts (r)

8.15 **Big Bang:** The science programme investigates friction. With Jez Nelson

8.45 **Opera House:** See Choice

9.30 **Kaleidoscope** (r) 9.59 Weather

10.00 **The World Tonight,** with Isabel Hilton

10.45 **Book at Bedtime: Happy Sad Land,** by Mark McCrum. Read by Richard E. Grant (3/7)

11.00 **The Lion in the Sand:** Gerald Butt charts Britain's withdrawal from the Middle East (r)

11.30-12.00 **Jeremy Hardy Speaks to the Nation (FM only):** Comedy series in which the writer and performer Jeremy Hardy tackles contemporary issues (r)

11.30 **Today in Parliament (LW)**

12.00-12.43am **News** incl 12.27 Weather 12.33 Shipping 12.43 As World Service (LW)

RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: FM-88-90.2. RADIO 3: FM-90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6; LW 198. RADIO 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. LONDON RADIO: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. CAPITAL: 1548kHz/194m; FM-95.8. GLR: FM 94.9; WORLD SERVICE: MW 648kHz/463m. CLASSIC FM: FM-100-102. VIRGIN: MW-1215, 1197, 1242 kHz. TALK RADIO: MW 1089, 1053kHz. Listings by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 43

KIBE

(a) A chilblain, especially on the heel, northern dialect. *Chilblain* is a compound of *chill* a chill + *blain* a boil or blister. "Medical report for Headquarters Company: nine men with chilblains. No, make that eight men with chilblains, and Major Duvet with kibes."

SCUMBLE

(c) To lay a thin coat of opaque or nearly opaque colour over a painted area with an almost dry brush, to soften the colour or line of a picture. An endearingly simple word for such a sophisticated artistic process. "I'm sorry, he cannot come to the 'phone; as usual, he's busy scumbling."

BREASTSUMMER

(b) Improbable as it may seem, this beautiful word denotes the beam supporting the upper front part of a building, over its main door or portico. "Ah, Miss Gordon-Duffy, as I came in I admired your breastsummer so much. What a superstructure!"

EUTHENICS

(a) The science of improving the condition of humans by improving their surroundings and conditions of work. In contradistinction to *environmentalism*, which is the science of improving the surroundings of humans by improving the humans. One might suggest, in all innocence, that one's mother-in-law ought to be subjected to euthenics. On being questioned, one explains that you had in mind that she might move into sheltered accommodation.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qe4+! Rxe4 2 g3 mate.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

Coca-Cola Cup
Semi-finals, Second leg
* Bolton (1) v Swindon (2) .....
Crystal Palace (0) v Liverpool (1) (8.0)

FA Carling Premiership
Aston Villa v Leicester (7.45) .....
Blackburn v Wimbledon (7.45) .....
Chelsea v Southampton (7.45) .....
Leeds v Everton (7.45) .....
Man City v Ipswich (7.45) .....
Newcastle v Tottenham (7.45) .....
*Norwich v Man Utd (7.45) .....
West Ham v QPR (7.45) .....

Endsleigh Insurance League
Second division
Bristol Rovers v Hull (8.0) .....

Bell's Scottish League
Second division
Meadowbank v Stirling .....

UNDER-18 INTERNATIONAL: England v Denmark (at Walsall FC, 7.45).

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Second-round replay: Stevenage v Yeovil (7.45).

UNIBOND LEAGUE: President's Cup: Second round: Boston v Hyde. Cup: Fourth-round replay: Accrington Stanley v Bishop Auckland. First division Cup: Third round: Alfreton v Worksop.

DIADORA LEAGUE: Third division: Collier Row v Leighton; Harlow v East Thurrock. Carlsberg Cup: Third round: Basingstoke v Sutton United.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Solihull v Halesowen. Southern division: Fareham v Weston-Super-Mare; Weymouth v Bury Town.

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Ton Pentre v Maesteg Park.

LONDON SPARTAN: Senior Challenge Cup: Third round: Wiltesden v Waltham Abbey.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Buckingham Ath v Langford.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: North Leigh v Banbury; Shortwood v Almondsbury.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Northallerton v Peterlee.

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: First round replay: Cork v UCD (2.30); Monaghan v Douglas H (2.30); Waterford v Galway.

SUSSEX UNIJET REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Amateur Football Alliance v Sussex.

SUSSEX SENIOR CHALLENGE CUP: Quarter-final replay: Brighton and Hove v Worthing.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Sheffield v Hucknall. President's Cup: Third round: Hallam v North Ferriby.

CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Holker Old Boys v St Helens; Rossendale v Maine Road.

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Chatteris v Halstead; Stowmarket v Wisbech.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Cup: Quarter-final, Second leg: Gosport v Brockenhurst.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Wimbledon v Swindon (at Plough Lane, Wimbledon, 2.0). Postponed: Brighton v Oxford United. Second division: Birmingham v Swansea (at Sutton Coldfield, 7.0); Cheltenham v Yeovil; Hereford v Bath (7.45); Torquay v Cardiff. Postponed: Bournemouth v Plymouth.

PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Notts County v Wolverhampton (7.0); Rotherham v Derby (7.0); Sunderland v Tranmere (7.0); West Bromwich Albion v Sheffield United (7.0). Second division: Bradford v Sheffield Wednesday (7.0); Grimsby v Port Vale (7.0); Preston v Blackpool (7.0).

FA YOUTH CUP: Fourth round replay: Southend v Tottenham Hotspur.

RUGBY UNION

Club matches
Cambridge Univ v Army (3.0) .....
Oxford Univ v Penguins (7.15) .....
Nottingham v RAF (7.15) C

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Manchester v Chester (8.0); Leopards v Worthing (7.0).

BILLIARDS: Strachan UK Championship (Wigan).

BOXING: European middleweight championship (vacant): Richie Woodhall (GB) v Silvio Branco (It) (Telford Ice Rink).

BOWLS: Churchill Insurance world indoor championships (Preston).

TENNIS: LTA men's satellite tournament (Eastbourne). LTA women's challenger tournament (Newcastle).

Slices of raw life in the Yardie homeland

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

The scene has a familiar ring, but is subtly new. "This is the house my father built," says a Jamaican youth called Peter, surveying an unroofed dwelling with pride. You expect him to expand on what a good man his father was — and that's exactly what he does. "He used to hide his drugs just here," he says. "I remember when I was small I hid down there, too." Ah, the innocence of childhood memories. Peter lifts a sheet of corrugated iron to reveal a hole in the floor. His father was very smart as a drugs dealer, apparently, but not so smart about women. One of his girlfriends set him up to be killed. (Bang went Peter's inheritance.)

Peter's patois was so dense it had to be translated into sub-titles, but everything else in last night's fascinating **Network First: Yardies** (ITV) was perfectly clear. After a few opening shots of "Yardie" killings in Britain, the rest of the film was a privileged close-up of the rawest ghetto life of Kingston — and if Clive James never sends a postcard from here, you can't blame him. Peter was a useful chap to know, because he had access to funerals (he makes videos of the flowery services, the wailing of teenage molls, the shovelling of the bright red earth). But Peter had direct experience of the violence, too: having recently thrown acid at an axeman, his left arm was a tracery of pink flesh. His pretty sister Rosie meanwhile mentioned the everyday risk of being "raped and dumped" in the same way we might talk about all the buses coming along at once.

The director, Kimi Zabihyan, had done a remarkable job, gaining access to the police round-up squad as well as the ghetto. Raiding a dance hall, the police arrested several boys who claimed they'd been present for a talent contest. This was an easy story to check: the chief ordered them to perform their rap acts here and now (pleasant to see medieval justice still flourishing), and the good ones were released. But the dangers were never far away: Peter's friend Lloyd was first discovered on a building site, wearing a hard hat with an improvised veil obscuring his face. There had been a mix-up: a woman had dumped a bucket of acid over Lloyd, in a case of "mistaken identity". It was certainly a case of mistaken identity now. When Lloyd took off the hat to be interviewed, his face was a howling blur by Francis Bacon in pink and brown.

It is quite rare to see presenters sweating through their shirts. A wardrobe mistress usually waits near by, surely, with a rail of fresh laundry and an industrial hairdryer. But Clive James, in last night's **Postcard from Bombay** (BBC1) heartily eschewed such namby-pamby treatment, and the patterns of damp on his torso became so watchable that they formed a parallel narrative of their own. Is it hot in Bombay, then? Is it humid? Watching Clive James suffer so badly was not pleasant (at one point, his face appeared to be shrinking as it dripped). Feeling helpless to do anything else, I gamely turned up the thermostat.

The "postcard" format is pretty superficial, as the name suggests. Clive Anderson's new strand on Fridays (*Our Man in . . .*, BBC2) has an investigative angle, with Anderson interviewing officials and hoteliers, exposing them as liars. James interviews glamorous, rich women, with whom he flirts, and his best moments are out on the street, sweating, hailing broken-down taxis ("An oven would have been cooler. An oven would have been *faster*"), and having his watch stolen by a jostling gang of children.

There was nothing he said about Bombay poverty that has not been said before. But you watch Clive James for the one-liners, not the fiscal analysis. "The groom arrived looking stunned. Many Indian marriages are arranged. He looked as if his had been arranged under anaesthetic." A new comic departure last night was a slapstick episode at a Bollywood studio, where James volunteered as a sword-fighting extra, dressed as a chocolate soldier with moustache, cossack boots and a pointy hat. After a few brief, hilarious rehearsals of cut and thrust, he was filmed receiving a fatal stab under his armpit, assuming an expression of extreme comic bewilderment, and then falling on his back in the dust. It was possibly the funniest thing he has ever done on television.

Clashing with Clive James on BBC2 (how they must have cheered when they got *that* slot) was a new series, **The Labours of Eve**. Oh no, I thought. Not another programme about women going to any lengths to acquire a baby? Last night's first film concerned a woman called Joan whose two sons had been killed in a hit-and-run at the ages of nine and four. Within three months of this devastating event, in which she was injured badly herself, she decided to start another family, despite rather serious obstacles — her husband's vasectomy, her broken pelvis, and her inability at the age of 43 to produce viable eggs.

Would she be dissuaded? No she wouldn't. And by the end of the programme at least you understood why the only purpose of her life was to make new babies. The presenter, Nicky Singer, asked whether she had considered adoption. "Oh yes," said Joan, "but I was too old." So she had a donor egg (twice), an implantation (twice), and finally a Caesarean section. All this endurance cost her £8,000 and the result was twins. Joan and her husband were happy again at last. Four spare embryos are stored in a frozen churn, in case she ever needs them. She said she would do it all again, if she had to. Other people's lives, eh? Other people's lives.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (70938)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (62456396)

9.05 Swat Kats (r) (s) (4765174) **9.30 White Fang** (r) (8872735) **9.55 Christopher Crocodile** (r) (2908174)

10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7977396) **10.05 EastEnders — The Early Days**. As part of the programme's tenth anniversary celebrations, a return to the start of the series (r). (Ceefax) (s) (2905087)

10.35 Good Morning with Anne and Nick. Weekday family magazine (s) (4159822)

12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1852822) **12.05pm Pebble Mill** introduced by Ross King (s) (2088464) **12.55 Regional news** and weather (75160754)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (26280)

1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (19820290) **1.55 Champion Telly Addicts** (r) (s) (90470939)

2.25 Alias Smith and Jones. Vintage western series starring Ben Murphy and Pete Duel (r) (2348358) **3.15 Glynn Christian's Entertaining Microwave**. American dishes (s) (8716396) **3.30 Brilliant Gardens**. Rula Lenska visits Westonbirt (9331938)

3.40 Sick as a Parrot introduced by Simon Davies (9311174) **3.55 Jackanory**. *A Wizard of Earthsea* by Ursula Le Guin (s) (9334025) **4.10 Potsworth and Co** (r) (3080303) **4.35 The Really Wild Show**. Wildlife magazine. (Ceefax) (s) (5471261)

5.00 Newsround (3932716) **5.05 The Biz**. The lives and loves of the pupils at the Markov School of Dance and Drama. (Ceefax) (s) (7165795)

5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (242174)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (261)

6.30 Regional news magazines (613)

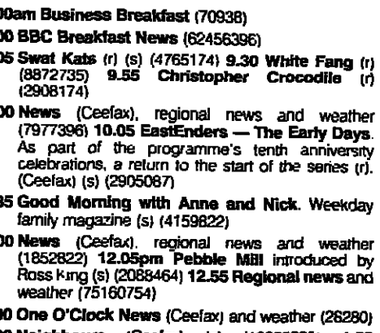
7.00 This Is Your Life. (Ceefax) (s) (3822)

7.30 Here and Now. Current affairs (975)

8.00 How Do They Do That? Desmond Lynam and Jenny Hull with more stories of human ingenuity. (Ceefax) (s) (582822)

8.45 Points of View (Ceefax) (s) (351377)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (9087)



Michael Elphick as Harry Salter (9.30pm)

9.30 CHOICE **Harry** (Ceefax) (s) (771396)

10.20 Sportsnight. Desmond Lynam introduces highlights of the match between Norwich and Manchester United at Carrow Road; plus a report on British middleweight Richie Woodhall's fight against Italian Silvio Branco and Bill Hardy's defence of his featherweight title against Ghana's Percy Commey (s) (1229822)

11.45 NEW **The Stand Up Show**. Barry Cryer introduces stand up comics (s) (366261)

12.15am FILM: Crossing the Mob (1989) starring Jason Bateman and Frank Stallone. A drama about a young man who accepts a job from a Mafia boss but then tries to go straight when he unexpectedly becomes a father. Directed by Steven Hilliard Stern. (386897) **1.50 Weather** (5659781)

BBC2

6.20 Open University: Women Artists — Feminist Strategies (7432754) **6.45** History: Writing and Unwitting Testimony (8738700) **7.10** The York Mystery Plays (3251396) **7.35** Frederick the Great and Sans Souci (2548984)

8.00 Breakfast News. (Ceefax and signing) (7376648)

8.15 Westminster On-Line with Trevor Phillips (s) (4969648)

9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, **10.00-10.25** Playdays (2916193) **2.00** The Greedysaurus Gang (41431648) **2.05** Spider (41430919)

2.10 Songs of Praise (r) (Ceefax) (s) (6011613)

2.45 World Bowls. The first two singles quarter-finals of the Churchill Insurance World Indoor championships. (s). Includes **news** and weather at **3.00** (s). Continues at 4.30 (7087377) **3.50 News** (Ceefax), regional news and weather (3642990)

4.00 Today's the Day Recent history quiz (s) (754)

4.30 World Bowls. Further coverage (s) (58445)

6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. Science-fiction adventures. (Ceefax) (s) (753700)

6.45 Natural Born Footballers. Profiles of the German stars Gerd Muller and Jurgen Klinsmann. (Ceefax) (s) (749803)

7.00 The World at War (r). (Ceefax) (5939)



Miranda Richardson goes wild (8.00pm)

8.00 NEW **Magic Animals: The Wolf**. (Ceefax) (s) (4984)

8.30 University Challenge. New College, Oxford, meet the University of Birmingham for a place in the semi-finals. (Ceefax) (s) (6919)

9.00 CHOICE **Modern Times: Mad About the Boy**. (Ceefax) (s) (234209)

9.50 Travel Show Short Cut (s) (862209)

10.00 Room 101. Peter Cook talks to Nick Hancock about the people, places and programmes he dislikes the most (r) (Ceefax) (s) (53087)

10.30 Newsnight. (Ceefax) (328648)

11.15 The Late Show. Rory Bremner on his love for the sculptures of Ronald Rae (s) (100984)

11.55 Weather (819938)

12.00 Shakespeare's Henry IV — **A Workshop** (1590168)

12.25am No Lay-Bys at 35,000 Feet. Three vital parts of an aeroplane (r) (7378217)

12.50 The Record. The day in Parliament (s) (1598878). Ends at **1.20**

2.00 Night School: Special Needs — Access to Learning (35588) **4.00-4.15 BBC Select: Benefits Agency Today** (35652472)

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CHOICE



Carol Spencer and Lamin Marong (BBC2, 9.00pm)

Modern Times: Mad About the Boy
BBC2, 9.00pm

When Carol Spencer, 52, decided to marry Lamin Marong from the Gambia the tongues began to wag. Not only was he black and she white but he was 25 years her junior. Even her closest friends were surprised. It could not possibly work, could it? Helena Appio's film provides the answer as it follows the couple to their wedding day and through the difficult times which followed. Carol, who had been twice married before, reckoned she was a good judge of people and was convinced it would be third time lucky. Besides, it worked for Deirdre in *Coronation Street* so why not for her? The merit of Appio's documentary, the first in a series on "how we live now", is that it is frank and intimate without being prurient.

Magic Animals
BBC2, 8.00pm

A wildlife series with a difference profiles four animals and shows how the reality has been obscured by the myths of human imagination. Future programmes deal with the bear, the dolphin and snake. Tonight's film, stylishly directed by Mark Harrison, deals with the wolf. The actress Miranda Richardson, colourfully costumed and with hair dyed black, is the storyteller. The material is drawn from 2,000 years of history and recalls that the wolf has not only been hunted to extinction but has been widely regarded as an incarnation of the Devil. From Little Red Riding Hood to lycanthropy and the legend of the werewolf, the myth has bitten deep into popular culture. Only the native Americans saw the wolf as a friend.

Harry
BBC1, 9.30pm

Returning for a second series, Michael Elphick's freelance journalist immediately has his nose smashed by a Fleet Street editor furious at holding the front page for a story which failed to arrive. The ratings may have been disappointing first time round, but this still seems a cynical way to grab viewers. Not surprisingly Elphick's battered Harry retreats to the North East and tries to make it up with his wife. Unfortunately for the show, since Rita (superbly played by Barbara Marten) has been the one character of any depth, she tells him to push off. This leaves Harry to direct his rough charm elsewhere, while getting enmeshed in an unsavoury tale about a bunch of hooded vigilantes who delight in stringing people up to lampposts.

The Real Holiday Show
Channel 4, 8.30pm

Gaby Roslin presents an antidote to holiday programmes which pretend that everything is what the brochure promises. This series features video records of actual holidays. Wanda and Richard Hurley from Swindon decided to take advantage of a cut-price air ticket and go to the Caribbean. The flights were delayed, the apartment was not ready, it rained buckets and their hire car was stolen. On top of all this their holiday films were ruined. It never happened to Judith Chalmers. But not all is misery. Teenager Mandy from Dagenham enjoys a holiday camp at Great Yarmouth and four likely lads from Dorset set out for the sun, sea, sand and you-know-what of an 18-to-30 break on Ibiza.

Peter Waymark

CARLTON

6.00am GMTV (1401377)

9.25 Chain Letters (s) (4761358) **9.55 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (2820342)

10.00 The Time... the Place. Topical discussion with John Stapleton (s) (4027209)

10.35 This Morning Weekday family magazine presented by Stephen Rhodes and Alison Keenan (90161919) **12.20pm London Today** (1858006)

12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (4604613)

12.55 Coronation Street (r). (Teletext) (4785532) **1.25 Home and Away** (Teletext) (61341358)

1.55 Capital Woman. Includes a report on dancophobia, a fear of dancing, and a look at former addict Phil Cooper, who tours London's schools warning of the dangers of drugs (s) (67277247) **2.25 A Country Practice** (s) (61752377)

2.50 Blue Heelers (9579938) **3.20 ITN News** headlines (Teletext) (7221822) **3.25 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (7220193)

3.30 Alphabet Castle (r) (s) (9326006) **3.40 Wizadora** (r) (s) (3640532) **3.50 A Pup Named Scooby Doo** (r) (7200700) **4.15 Reboot** (s) (6135272) **4.40 The Tomorrow People** (Teletext) (2681862)

5.10 After 5 (Teletext) (5264764)

5.40 ITN Early Evening News (Teletext) and weather (516396)

5.55 Your Shout. Members of the public air their views (415174)

6.00 Home and Away (r). (Teletext) (629)

6.30 London Tonight presented by Alastair Stewart and Fiona Foster. (Teletext) (209)

7.00 Wish You Were Here...? Includes reports on a new resort in Egypt; holidays suitable for the disabled; Ironbridge in Shropshire; and an American fly-drive trip. (Teletext) (s) (8990)



Bill Tarmey and Elizabeth Dawn (7.30pm)

7.30 Coronation Street. Vera (Elizabeth Dawn) accuses Jack (Bill Tarmey) of caring more for a sick pigeon than for her. (Teletext) (193)

8.00 The Match — Live. Bob Wilson introduces action from the second leg of the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final match between Crystal Palace and Liverpool from Selhurst Park. Plus highlights of the other semi-final between Bolton and Swindon (4071)

10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (77613)

10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (423735)

10.40 FILM: Prince of Darkness (1987) starring Donald Pleasance. A priest unwittingly unleashes a torrent of violence when he discovers a canister containing the spirit of the Devil. Directed by John Carpenter (65608377)

12.40am Alien Nation (s) (2676043)

1.35 Hollywood Report (s) (8478781)

2.05 The Beat (s) (6437410)

3.00 The Album Show featuring U2 (s) (8997033)

4.05 Shift. Young producers and directors bring music, arts and comedy to the small secreen (7981859)

4.55 The Time... the Place (r) (s) (6632762)

5.30 ITN Morning News (39507). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.35 Sandokan (r) (8812716)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (18803)

9.00 Wish Kid (r) (50990)

9.30 Schools: Living and Growing (9809700) **9.46** Talk, Write and Read (9995551) **10.02** Stage Two Science (6778551) **10.18** Mind Your Own Business (6764358) **10.40** Living with Technology (1569700) **10.55** Film and Video Showcase (6147716) **11.05** Encyclopaedia Galactica (9367261) **11.15** The Music Show (2755006) **11.30** Rat-a-Tat-Tat (3947984) **11.45** First Edition (3048667)

12.00 House To House. Political magazine (70754)

12.30 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning entertainment. The guest is Lorraine Newman (30377) **1.30 Take 5** featuring *Mister Men, Tales From the Riverbank, Natalie, Ivor the Engine* and *Joggy Bear* (86803)

2.00 The Flying Fabian. Cartoon (59469532)

2.15 FILM: A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (1989) starring Keshia Knight Pulliam. A made-for-television version of Mark Twain's tale of a girl who is knocked out and wakes up in Camelot. Directed by Mel Damski. (Teletext) (287006)

4.00 Journeyman. Clive Gunnell leaves Salisbury Plain for Old Sarum (s) (822)

4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (s) (826)

5.00 Ricki Lake. The guests are divorced couples who are fixing each other up with new partners. (Teletext) (s) (7537822) **5.50 Rhyme and Reason** (438025)

6.00 NEW **All American Girl**. American sit-com starring Margaret Cho. (Teletext) (241)

6.30 Boy Meets World. (Teletext) (551)

7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (360396)

7.50 The Slot. Viewers' video soapbox (328754)

8.00 Brookside. The hate campaign against the Jordaches intensifies. (Teletext) (s) (5280)



Gaby Roslin packs her bags (8.30pm)

8.30 CHOICE **The Real Holiday Show**. (Teletext) (1087)

9.00 Dispatches. An investigation into fats that many scientists believe can kill but the food industry keeps quiet about. (Teletext) (580990)

9.45 Out Of Order: The Sun Is the Voice Of the Nation. Stuck in the lift this week are Christopher Hitchens, cultural critic of *Vanity Fair*, and Christopher Roycroft Davis, assistant editor of *The Sun*. (Teletext) (s) (782984)

10.00 ER: Hit and Run. American hospital drama series. (Teletext) (4648)

11.00 The Best Of the Tube. With Paul Young, Culture Club, INXS, The Pretenders, Spitting Image and French and Saunders (289445)

11.35 Moviewatch (r) (s) (843735)

12.05am LA Law. Courtroom drama series (7538507)

1.00 Rocky World. The life and work of music producer Daniel Lanois (r) (s) (1998762)

2.05 FILM: Sanders of the River (1935, b/w) starring Leslie Banks and Paul Robeson. Drama about a British commissioner in Central Africa who puts down an uprising with the help of a loyal chieftain. Directed by Zoltan Korda (455168). Ends at **3.40**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 9.55am-10.00 Anglia News (2830342) **12.20pm-12.30** Anglia News (1858006) **1.55** A Country Practice (82983358) **2.20** Gardening Time (61744358) **2.50-3.20** Blockbusters (9579938) **3.25-3.30** Anglia News and Weather (7220193) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (5264764) **6.25-7.00** Anglia Weather followed by Anglia News (494532) **10.30** Anglia News (423735) **10.40** Hostage (96587071) **12.25am** The Album Show (7516385) **1.25** Hollywood Report (1656502) **1.55** America's Top Ten (2482830) **2.25** Shift (7424675) **3.20** The Little Picture Show (8917897) **4.25** The Time... the Place (1298859) **5.00-5.30** The Munsters Today (63101)

CENTRAL
As London except: 9.55-10.00 Central News (2830342) **12.20pm-12.30** Central News and Weather (1858006) **1.55** A Country Practice (82983358) **2.20** Gardening Time (61744358) **2.50-3.20** Blockbusters (9579938) **3.25-3.30** Central News (7220193) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (5264764) **6.25-7.00** Central News and Weather (494532) **10.30** Central News and Weather (423735) **10.40** Film. The Wicked Stepmother (Bette Davis, Barbara Carrera) (86587071) **12.25am-12.40** Profile (7155965) **3.55** Profile (61663043) **4.05** Jobfinder (4046014) **5.20-5.30** Asian Eye (9568033)

GRANADA
As London except: 9.55-10.00 Granada News (2820342) **12.20pm-12.30** Granada News (1858006) **12.55** Shortland Street (4785532) **1.25** Home and Away (30354716) **1.50** Highway to Heaven (7632358) **2.50-3.20** Coronation Street (9579938) **3.25-3.30** Granada News (7220193) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (5264764) **6.25** Granada Country Practice (5264764) **6.25** Granada Tonight (494532) **7.00-7.30** Wish You Were Here..? (8890) **10.30** Granada News (423735) **10.40** Being There (690464) **11.10** World Championship Boxing (683358) **12.10am** Disaster Chronicles (1566101) **12.40** Alien Nation (2676043) **1.35** Hollywood Report (8478781) **2.05** The Beat (6437410) **3.00** The Album Show (8997033) **4.05** Shift (7981859) **4.55-5.30** The Time, the Place (6632762)

HTV WEST
As London except: 1.55 Good Health! (67277247) **2.25** Simply Delicious (61743629) **2.55-3.20** Shortland Street (7687071) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (5264764) **6.30-7.00** HTV News (209) **10.30** HTV West Headlines and Weather (423735) **10.40-12.40pm** Iron Eagle II (65606377)

HTV WALES
As HTV WEST except: 1.55-2.25 Only Yesterday (67277247) **6.30-7.00** Wales Tonight (209) **10.30-10.40** HTV Wales News and Weather (423735)

MERIDIAN
As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (82983358) **2.20** Getaways (61744358) **2.50-3.20** Shortland Street (9579938) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (5264764) **6.00** Meridian Tonight (629) **6.30-7.00** The Village (209) **10.40** Meridian Focus (690464) **11.10** Charley Hannah (529645) **12.35am-1.35** The Album Show (5794588) **2.05** America's Top Ten (8740965) **2.35** Shift (2077120) **3.25** The Little Picture Show (6517410) **4.25** The Time .. the Place (1298859) **5.00-5.30** Freescreen (63101)

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: 1.55 High Road (67277247) **2.25-2.55** Great House Cookery (61743629) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (5264764) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (46938) **10.40** Special Report (690464) **11.10** The Equalizer (663358) **12.10am-12.40** An Lowarthow Kellys a Helygan (1566101)

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 9.55-10.00 Calendar News and Weather (2820342) **1.55** A Country Practice (82983358) **2.20** The Masters of Beauty (61744358) **2.50-3.20** Shortland Street (9579938) **3.25-3.30** Yorkshire. Calendar News / Bilsdale. Network North (7220193) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (5264764) **5.55** Calendar / Network North (705025) **6.30-7.00** Crossways (209) **10.30** Calendar News and Weather (423735) **10.40** Street Legal (182303) **11.35-1.35pm** American Dreamer (775938) **2.05am** Videofashion (8740966) **2.35** The Album Show (9006472) **3.35** Nosy Mothers (5576255) **4.30-5.30** Jobfinder (49101)

S4C
Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (18803) **9.00** Wish Kid (50990) **9.30** Ysgolion (155716) **12.00pm** House To House (70754) **12.30** Sioe Mellmin (4708483) **12.55** Sesame Street (7762551) **1.55** Left Hand Of God (40825880) **3.30** High Interest: The Cost Of Crime (58261) **4.30** The Cosby Show (826) **5.00** 5 Pump (5849648) **5.15** 5 Pump (71202611) **5.30** Countdown (358) **6.00** Newyddion (164938) **6.15** Heno (124261) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (6532) **7.30** Sgid Hwch (82754) **8.30** Newyddion (1087) **9.00** Dim Ond Cell (579280) **9.35** Rap (413822) **10.00** Brookside (71483) **10.30** ER (382321) **11.25** Dispatches (810803) **12.10am** The Golden Girls (1564743) **12.40** Ellen (1586033)

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
6.00am DJ Kat (74103) **8.00** Power Rangers (2900803) **8.45** Oprah Winfrey (9011629) **9.30** Card Sharks (36822) **10.00** Concentration (32919) **10.30** Candid Camera (17862) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (79938) **12.00** The Urban Peasant (98174) **12.30pm** E Street (47938) **1.00** St Elsewhere (35193) **2.00** The Dinwater Dynasty (33648) **3.00** Oprah Winfrey (1717280) **3.55** DJ Kat (4326735) **4.30** Power Rangers (7754) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (8919) **6.00** Gamesworld (5919) **6.30** Family Ties (6071) **7.00** E Street (9648) **7.30** M*A*S*H (8483) **8.00** A Mind to Kill *the first of six* detective thrillers (76464) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (82071) **11.00** David Letterman (568464) **11.45** Littlejohn (261174) **12.30am** Chances (95859) **1.30** Night Court (61304) **2.00-6.00am** Hitmo Long Play (5151255)

SKY NEWS
News on the hour
6.00am Sunrise (9665613) **9.30** Entertainment This Week (85690) **10.30** ABC Nightline (17844) **11.00** News and Business (60280) **1.30pm** CBS News (57629) **2.30** Parliament Live (41303) **4.00** News and Business (54754) **5.00** Live at Five (2926735) **6.05** Richard Littlejohn (70995377) **8.00** News and Business (63990) **9.00** O J Simpson Trial Live (5372025) **12.30am** CBS News (86101) **1.30** Fashion TV (69491) **2.30** Parliament Replay (68762) **4.30** Sky News Extra — Indian Horse Racing (96033) **5.30-6.00** ABC Nightline (71507)

SKY MOVIES
6.00am Showcase (1995880) **10.00 Octopussy** (1983) (24780700) **12.10pm Author! Author!** (1982) (500209) **2.10 A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum** (1966) (4653442) **4.00 Victim of Love** (1993) (75513713) **5.50 Octopussy** (1983) As 10am (82400551) **8.00 Death Becomes Her** (1992) (61582) **10.00 Lush Life** (1993) (3565532) **11.50 Foxy Lady** Erotic entertainment (918716) **1.30am Chud 2: Bud the Chud** (1989) (8487255) **2.55 Midnight Confessions** (1993) (86958301) **4.20-5.50 Victim of Love** (1993) As 4pm (801859)

SKY MOVIES GOLD
5.00pm The Lost Weekend (1945) (62209) **8.00 Summer and Smoke** (1961) (67754) **10.00-12.00 Raging Bull** (1980) (27648)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
6.00am Abbott and Costello Meet Captain Kidd (1952) (3339716) **7.15 Rogues of Sherwood Forest** (1950) (1568071) **8.35 Bugs Bunny Superstar** (1975) (22303754) **10.15 The Seven Little Foys** (1955) (55004445) **12.00 The List of Adrian Messenger** (1963) (1138222) **1.40pm A League of Their Own** (1992) (29442551) **3.55 Bugs Bunny Superstar** (1975) As 8.35am (4199938) **5.35 Spiderman: The Dragon's Challenge** (1979) (29678006) **7.20 Special Feature: Natural Born Killers** (653667) **7.50 A League of Their Own** (1992) As 1.40pm (72705700) **10.00 Twilight Zones: Rod Serling's Last Classics** (1993) (603087) **11.35 Body Snatchers** (1993) (668557) **1.05am Paydirt** (1981) (8255897) **2.35 Blind Spot** (1993) (6830014) **4.20-6.00 Spiderman: The Dragon's Challenge** (1979) As 5.35pm (892101)

For more film information, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SKY SPORTS
7.00am Soccer News (3368759) **7.15** WWF Superstars (489667) **8.15** Soccer News (2344984) **8.30** ABC Tenpin Bowling (432223) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (862561) **10.00** Tartan Extra (93532) **11.00** Boots 'n' All (13398) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (18377) **12.30pm** Jump Fever '95 (65025) **2.30** Grass Roots Rugby (1990) **3.00** Tartan Extra (801893) **4.00** National Trails (9342) **4.30** Freestyle Skiing (1754) **5.00** WWF Challenge (4735) **6.00** Soccer News (211445) **6.15** Fish Tales (136700) **6.30** Get Your Handicap Down (53111) **7.00** The Rugby Club (184641) **8.00** NBA Basketball (25700) **10.00** Soccer News (650551) **10.15** Get Your Handicap Down (130754) **10.45** The Rugby Club (766254) **11.45** Fish Tales (544087) **12.00-2.00am** NBA Basketball (61781)

EUROSPORT
7.30am Eurosk (95700) **8.30** Dancing (94939) **9.30** Tennis (53006) **11.00** Aerobics (20844) **12.00** European Skiing (442360) **1.00pm** Figure Skating (57700) **2.00** Athletics (62174) **3.00** Equestrianism (75261) **4.00** Live Tennis (5720813) **8.30** News (5087) **9.00** Motors Magazine (35236) **10.00** Boxing (85713) **11.00** Equestrianism (96620) **12.00-12.30am** Eurosport News (26520)

SKY SOAP
8.00am Loving (60672261) **8.30** Peyton Place (8066532) **9.00** As the World Turns (5766890) **10.00** Guiding Light (6788464) **11.00-12.00** Another World (6696700)

SKY TRAVEL
12.00 Getaway — Australia (6077648) **12.30pm** Zoo Life (1015532) **1.00** Roads to Freedom (6770716) **1.30** Cook Italian (1014803) **2.00** California's Gold (8337377) **2.30** Ticket to Paradise (7095613) **3.00** Ghost Towns of the Old West (1929006) **4.00** Neighbours (3128844) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (2934667) **8.30** EastEnders (2933938) **9.00** The Bill (2917990) **9.30** Campion (4470735) **10.30** When the Boat Comes In (6985454) **11.30** No Place Like Home (4761803) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (2937754) **12.30pm** Neighbours (1978464) **1.00** EastEnders (8570700) **1.30** The Bill (1977735) **2.00** Bless This House (4622087) **2.30** Citizen Smith (2641754) **3.00** Knots Landing (4762919) **4.00** Dallas (4774754) **5.00** Every Second Counts (9831990) **5.35** Dick Emery (5001087) **6.00** Hi-De-Hi (9105396) **6.30** EastEnders (2633735) **7.00** Citizen Smith (4626803) **7.30** Bless This House (2639919) **8.00** Adrian Mole (4635551) **8.30** Carry On Laughing (4621358) **9.00** Miss Marple (9906342) **10.00** The Bill (2938483) **10.30** Top of the Pops (5550990) **11.20** The Young Ones (7871280) **12.05am** Dr Who (2319859) **12.35** FILM Blithe Spirit (1945) (5258566) **2.25-3.30** Shopping (58275507)



Geena Davis plays baseball (The Movie Channel, 7.50pm)

Travel Guide (7182193) **4.30** Zoo Life (7188377) **5.00** Cruising (8328629) **5.30** Cook Italian (7179629) **6.00** Getaway (7096342) **6.30** Video Trips (7183822) **7.00** Great Outdoors (8413193) **8.00** Around the World (8244613) **8.30** Travel Guide (8338648) **9.00** Getaway (1931025) **9.30** Video Trips (1035396) **10.00** Great Outdoors (8412464) **11.00** Cruising (1892342) **11.30-12.00** California's Gold (3329700)

TLC
9.00am Blitz on Cartooning (2915532) **9.30** Madeleine Cooks (1965990) **10.00** Milestones (4853648) **10.30** Only Human (6983006) **11.30** Before the Law (4759445) **12.00** Breaking the Habit (2835396) **12.30pm** Life is for Living (1976006) **1.00** Madeleine Cooks (2501922) **1.30** Blitz On Cartooning (1975377) **2.00** Jimmy's (4630629) **2.30** Cash on Hand (2649396) **3.00** Stars and Gardens (4632464) **3.30-4.00** It's a Vet's Life (2548613)

UK GOLD
7.00am Give Us a Clue (8671758) **7.30** Bewitched (6128280) **8.00** Keeping Up Appearances (6124822) **8.30** Terry and June (6123193) **9.00** Only Fools and Horses (6122464) **9.30** Dad's Army (6121835) **10.00** Are You Being Served? (6120106) **10.30** Hi-De-Hi (6119577) **11.00** Fawlty Towers (6118938) **11.30** Steptoe and Son (6118309) **12.00** Bewitched (6117680) **12.30pm** Keeping Up Appearances (6117041) **1.00** Terry and June (6116412) **1.30** Dad's Army (6115783) **2.00** Only Fools and Horses (6115154) **2.30** Are You Being Served? (6114525) **3.00** Hi-De-Hi (6113896) **3.30** Fawlty Towers (6113267) **4.00** Steptoe and Son (6112638) **4.30** Bewitched (6112009) **5.00** Keeping Up Appearances (6111370) **5.30** Terry and June (6110741) **6.00** Only Fools and Horses (6110112) **6.30** Are You Being Served? (6109483) **7.00** Hi-De-Hi (6108854) **7.30** Fawlty Towers (6108225) **8.00** Steptoe and Son (6107596) **8.30** Bewitched (6106967) **9.00** Keeping Up Appearances (6106338) **9.30** Terry and June (6105709) **10.00** Only Fools and Horses (6105080) **10.30** Are You Being Served? (6104451) **11.00** Hi-De-Hi (6103822) **11.30** Fawlty Towers (6103193) **12.00** Steptoe and Son (6102564) **12.30am** Bewitched (6101935) **1.00** Keeping Up Appearances (6101296) **1.30** Terry and June (6100667) **2.00** Only Fools and Horses (6100038) **2.30** Are You Being Served? (6099489) **3.00** Hi-De-Hi (6098780) **3.30** Fawlty Towers (6098151) **4.00** Steptoe and Son (6097522) **4.30** Bewitched (6096893) **5.00** Keeping Up Appearances (6096264) **5.30** Terry and June (6095635) **6.00** Only Fools and Horses (6095006) **6.30** Are You Being Served? (6094377) **7.00** Hi-De-Hi (6093748) **7.30** Fawlty Towers (6093119) **8.00** Steptoe and Son (6092490) **8.30** Bewitched (6091861) **9.00** Keeping Up Appearances (6091232) **9.30** Terry and June (6090603) **10.00** Only Fools and Horses (6089974) **10.30** Are You Being Served? (6089345) **11.00** Hi-De-Hi (6088716) **11.30** Fawlty Towers (6088087) **12.00** Steptoe and Son (6087458) **12.30am** Bewitched (6086829) **1.00** Keeping Up Appearances (6086190) **1.30** Terry and June (6085561) **2.00** Only Fools and Horses (6084932) **2.30** Are You Being Served? (6084303) **3.00** Hi-De-Hi (6083674) **3.30** Fawlty Towers (6083045) **4.00** Steptoe and Son (6082416) **4.30** Bewitched (6081787) **5.00** Keeping Up Appearances (6081158) **5.30** Terry and June (6080529) **6.00** Only Fools and Horses (6079900) **6.30** Are You Being Served? (6079271) **7.00** Hi-De-Hi (6078642) **7.30** Fawlty Towers (6078013) **8.00** Steptoe and Son (6077384) **8.30** Bewitched (6076755) **9.00** Keeping Up Appearances (6076126) **9.30** Terry and June (6075497) **10.00** Only Fools and Horses (6074868) **10.30** Are You Being Served? (6074239) **11.00** Hi-De-Hi (6073610) **11.30** Fawlty Towers (6072981) **12.00** Steptoe and Son (6072352) **12.30am** Bewitched (6071723) **1.00** Keeping Up Appearances (6071094) **1.30** Terry and June (6070465) **2.00** Only Fools and Horses (6069836) **2.30** Are You Being Served? (6069207) **3.00** Hi-De-Hi (6068578) **3.30** Fawlty Towers (6067949) **4.00** Steptoe and Son (6067320) **4.30** Bewitched (6066691) **5.00** Keeping Up Appearances (6066062) **5.30** Terry and June (6065433) **6.00** Only Fools and Horses (6064804) **6.30** Are You Being Served? (6064175) **7.00** Hi-De-Hi (6063546) **7.30** Fawlty Towers (6062917) **8.00** Steptoe and Son (6062288) **8.30** Bewitched (6061659) **9.00** Keeping Up Appearances (6061030) **9.30** Terry and

SPORT

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22 1995

Manager dismissed in wake of Premier League inquiry into transfer irregularities

Arsenal make Graham pay ultimate price

By Rob Hughes, Football Correspondent

GEORGE GRAHAM, who brought to Arsenal football club more silverware than any manager since Herbert Chapman in the 1930s, was dismissed in ignominy yesterday; a man who survived his pragmatic, winner-takes-all ethic until, it is alleged, he took a little too much. Besides, his team had actually started losing.

When the announcement came from Highbury's marble halls at 1.10pm yesterday, it may have been mere coincidence that the heavens over North London opened. A 111-word statement said that Graham's contract had been terminated after 8½ successful years after "the FA Premier League inquiry into alleged irregularities concerning certain transfers ... the board concluded that Mr Graham did not act in the best interests of the club".

There was, at once, another storm brewing. It reached many parts of the country, many clubs where there are managers who, according to rumour and rancour, have been just as injudicious as Graham in accepting monies in connection with the transfer of footballers from one club to another.

There was also some poppycock spouted. Arsenal, it was said, had dismissed Graham because the club upholds standards that others only aspire to. What nonsense. This affair had not simply arisen in newspapers shortly before Christmas, but had been exposed in a book, *The Men Behind Brondby*, by Henrik Madsen, in November 1993. Subsequently, Graham is alleged to have paid back the £285,000 "unsolicited gift" he received from the Norwegian agent, Rune Hauge; at the time of the transfer to Arsenal from Brondby of John Jensen.

Peter Hill-Wood, the Old Etonian chairman at Highbury, reiterated yesterday that his club had met Rick Parry, the chief executive of the Premier League, last Friday, and had reached the unanimous decision to terminate Graham's contract. The termination, it is said, comes with no compensation for the unserved portion of his deal, which had more than two years to run at some £250,000 per year.

Hill-Wood admitted that the timing of the dismissal was "inconvenient". He said: "There is no convenient time to lose a manager who's been so successful." Successful indeed. Though many people have shuddered at the manner in which Graham's teams "closed down" the opposition, though the trophies were ground out of toil and labour, they came at a prodigious rate: two league championships, three other domestic trophies and the Cup Winners' Cup, which Arsenal seek to defend against the French team, Auxerre, next month.

There are so many memories of Graham on top. In May 1989, he stood on the centre circle at Anfield, embracing his son and his daughter, while his team cavorted in front of the Kop, having won the championship in the hardest way imaginable, by beating Liverpool 2-0 in their own citadel.

And then, less than a year ago, there was Graham at Stansted airport at 3am. The Arsenal team had landed, bringing home the Cup Winners' Cup. There were bleary eyes, rambling voices, and there was Graham — pristine, hugging the trophy and the limelight. "Winning the Cup Winners' Cup, against teams that were much better in technical quality, is outstanding," he said. "Ask yourself why."

The reason shone like the trophy; it was the tactical nous of the man who had risen from poverty, from being the youngest of six in a Scottish upbringing made so hard by the death of his father when Graham was barely three years old.

As a footballer, the "Stroller", he had graced the midfield of the otherwise equally pragmatic Arsenal double team of 1970-71. He admitted, many years and many successes later, that Graham the player would not have got into Graham the manager's team. But he could baffle himself with arrogance, with his fixed smile in adversity. One moment that clings to the image of this Scot was Graham claiming he had not read the criticism, but that what was written was wrong.

So, pragmatic, utterly combative, suave on the surface ... what could have induced Graham to commit, if he did, the ultimate crime against his club and the supporters, of banking money that should have been helping to make the team, the club, an even better entity?

The suggestion that will not go away is that many, if not everyone, are doing it. Even the Premier League inquiry, whose intermittent bulletins simply play down the spread and the scope of so-called bungs, recently suggested that the game was clean "since 1992". That, of course, was the time Jensen became an Arsenal player, and the agent, Hauge, who is under investigation for tax fraud in Norway, has just been awarded bona fide status, one of ten men whom the sports authorities approve.

"George has been unlucky," Tommy Docherty, that old rascal who was the manager when Graham played at both Chelsea and Manchester United, says.

He, now retired from active service in the game, was on Sky Television within an hour of the sacking. "It is well known," Docherty asserted, "that there are managers in the game who have taken hundreds of thousands of pounds. It's got to be greed, there is no other word for it. If they're guilty, get them out of the game with a life ban."

The question of a ban, of any official action beyond Highbury's door, was being dismissed last night. Hill-Wood said: "I have been in touch with Rick Parry two or three times today, and I think he is happy with the action we have taken. There is no evidence to suggest that the Premier League will take any further action."

No further action: is Graham to be the scapegoat for habits that have polluted the national sport? That has become as much a legal as an ethical question. The Premier League has found its inquiry absolutely bedevilled with lawyers, and it was seen earlier this season how emphatically Tottenham Hotspur employed men of the Bar to knock the stuffing out of the intentions of the Football Association.

What of Graham? His future mayh lie abroad. The man whose hands have touched more trophies, as player and manager, than any other in the club's history, will probably never now be cast in bronze alongside the bust of Herbert Chapman in the marble halls. He forfeited that somewhere between Highbury and Scandinavia.

Cantona charged, page 1

Graham calls for inquiry

George Graham said last night he would "vigorously contest" his dismissal by Arsenal. In a statement issued through his solicitors, he accused the club of making a "kangaroo court judgment", dismissed the allegations of transfer irregularities as "nonsense" and called "for a full and open inquiry by the Football Association". "My record of loyalty and service demanded better treatment," he added.



Graham takes exercise yesterday morning before the announcement of his dismissal as Arsenal manager

GEORGE GRAHAM FACTFILE

1944: Born Bargeddie, Scotland, Nov 30.
1962: Signs for Aston Villa.
1964: Transferred to Chelsea for £6,000
1965: League Cup winner after victory over Leicester City.
1966: Joins Arsenal for £50,000, collecting League Cup runners-up medals in 1968 and 1969.
1970: Helps Arsenal to win Fairs Cup.
1971: Key member of Arsenal's double-winning side.
1972: Joins Manchester United after collecting FA Cup runners-up medal and first of 12 Scotland caps.
1974: Transferred to Portsmouth.
1976: Moves to Crystal Palace, who earn promotion to second division.
1977: Retires from playing and takes coaching job with Queens Park Rangers. Moves to Crystal Palace as coach.
1982: Joins Millwall as manager.
1985: Millwall promoted from third division.
1986: Becomes Arsenal manager in May and wins Littlewoods Cup in first season.
1989: Leads Arsenal to first league title for 18 years thanks to dramatic goal by Michael Thomas in their final match, against Liverpool at Anfield.
1991: Arsenal win championship.
1993: Arsenal complete FA Cup and Coca-Cola Cup double.
1994: Arsenal beat Parma to win Cup Winners' Cup.

Houston's association may count against promotion

By Rob Hughes

THE question of the succession to George Graham as manager of Arsenal became an inevitable roulette wheel of intrigue and speculation last night. The bookmakers were offering odds on 33 assorted names — although Uncle Tom Cobley was strangely omitted — before Arsenal's FA Carling Premiership game against Nottingham Forest.

But Peter Hill-Wood, the club chairman, was, of necessity, discussing but a single candidate. "I spoke to Stewart Houston on the phone, and asked him to take charge tonight," Hill-Wood said, referring to the man who has been Graham's assistant for the past five years. "I'll be speaking to him tomorrow about the longer term. He is a very possible candidate. I'm sure the players have faith in Stewart."

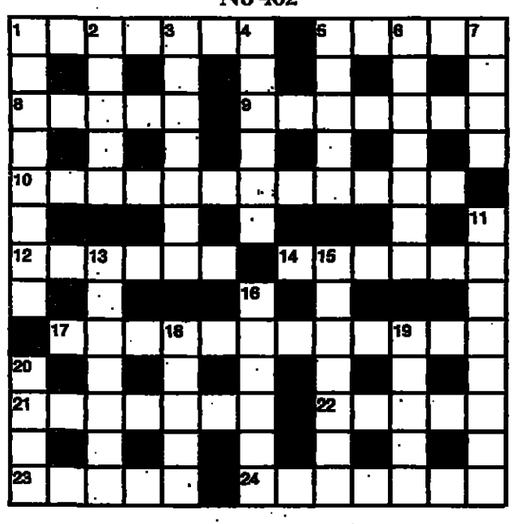
Possibly they do, but possibly some of the supporters who have lately shown their wrath at the lack of style in the team, might object to a mere continuation of a management connection that has inspired such a paucity of inventive midfield play.

Unless Arsenal choose to maintain the present situation until the end of the season, the likely rivals to Houston include Pat Rice, the youth team coach at Highbury, Liam Brady, David O'Leary and Tony Woodcock, all former Arsenal players; the last was until recently manager of FC Leipzig.

Further down the bookmakers' list, but intriguing nevertheless, are the names of Steve Coppell, David Pleat, Joe Kinnear and Bruce Rioch. Coppell would certainly get the job if Machiavelli were still alive. For Coppell had been a member of the three-man Premier League commission that sat in judgment on Graham; moreover, Coppell had injudiciously said to the press that it was not so much a question of whether Graham took the money, but of why. Shortly afterwards, Coppell declared himself keen to manage a football club again. Time will tell how prescient that decision really was.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 402



ACROSS
1 Hesitation about rightness of action (7)
5 Bird; cower (5)
8 Thin biscuit (5)
9 Travesty (7)
10 Too hard to understand (4,4,4)
12 Swallow up (6)
14 Trite expression (6)
17 Gesture of crowd's impatience (4,8)
21 N Atlantic island republic (7)
22 Stupid pupil (5)
23 Useful; dextrous (5)
24 Aridity (7)

DOWN
1 Surgeon (joc.) (8)
2 Plunder; weapon (5)
3 Partially cook (7)
4 Break (limit) (6)
5 Overturn (judgement) (5)
6 Palestine language in NT times (7)
7 Vegetable, cylindrical white bulb (4)
11 Without defence (8)
13 Old Spanish warship (7)
15 March 25th (4,3)
16 Frank, open (6)
18 Tired (5)
19 Sudden forward thrust (5)
20 Essential part; fruit tissue (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 401

ACROSS: 1 Jackal 4 Jagged 8 Jute 9 Vignette 10 By-product 13 Apply 15 Trust 16 Watch 18 Expedient 21 Rhetoric 22 Rout 23 Scruff 24 Launch

DOWN: 1 Jujube 2 Catapult 3 Livid 5 Annotated 6 Gate 7 Dreary 11 On the hoof 12 Usurp 14 Pope Joan 16 Walrus 17 Stitch 19 Excel 20 Lear

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Hill revs up his mean machine

Simon Barnes finds optimism overflowing as Williams accelerate towards a new campaign

The new car is quick, astonishingly quick, the engine consummately reliable and the drivers love each other. Yes, the new Formula One season is only weeks away and the Williams team yesterday launched their new car upon the world.

Yes, and the next will be the most competitive Formula One season in history, far more a test of drivers and less a test of machinery than ever before. The annual optimism rode pig-back across the Didcot skies.

Last season at Williams brought the death of Ayrton Senna, and, through the troubles and traumas, a second place in the world drivers' championship for Damon Hill. It also brought Hill, now 34, a new team-mate ten years his junior. David Coulthard, hungry and pugnacious, lined up beside Hill yesterday to unveil a lean and high-nosed car. They stood side by side, grinning uneasily in the lights of a thousand cameras.

Last year, the two of them were caught up in a row about who gives way to whom. "I don't think there is any problem between us," Coulthard said yesterday. "There are no team orders at the start of the season." Precedence is a matter for late summer and autumn, when one driver or another might be fighting for the world championship that eluded Hill by a single point last season.

A strange season indeed. Hill is, unusually in Formula One, a man lacking in visible signs of ruthlessness. Time and again the buzz went round the bizarre, globe-wandering and rumour-mongering village of Formula One that Hill was "too nice" — meaning too soft — to be a champion.

He went at least halfway to proving them all wrong in his extraordinary win in the rain in the penultimate race of the season in Japan. Heavy rain is what separates the men from the boys in Formula One — or to be more accurate, the drivers from their machinery.

It seemed then that Hill's sad-eyed mildness of nature was one of the most deceptive fronts in sport. But the hardness is layers deep. He is perhaps the only man in Formula One to be truly easy company. "I've trained harder physically this year," he said. "And I've prepared harder mentally, too. On my own, as usual. The new car looks mean and fast, and I'm very keen to get into it."

A new season is a new beginning, and Hill has been aching for that. "Last year, it was a hell of a year. I wouldn't want anyone to go through that."

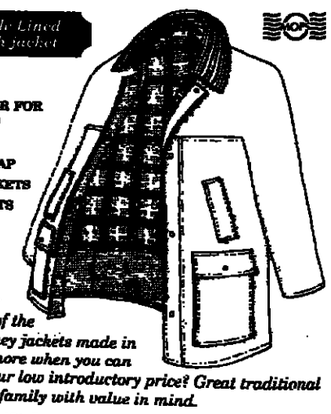
It ended with, for a fraction of a second, the world championship in his grasp. But then his rival for the title, Michael Schumacher, cannoned into him and drove him off the track and had the title for himself. A hell of a year.

"The new season will be more competitive," Hill said. "New regulations limiting engine size and down-force are designed to increase both safety and parity of competition."

Meanwhile, the rumour mill grinds on: this car is frighteningly quick, that one quicker, this team is concealing its hand and is much quicker (or slower) than it is made out to be. Hill smiled benignly at the media scrimmage.

On the pavement outside the Williams factory in fading white paint someone has written: "Senna you will always be remembered." Yes indeed. I hope no more inscriptions will be required this year, in Didcot or anywhere else in Formula One's global village.

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